

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, December 13, 2012

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## Big reunion

Former pupils reunited to remember school days

Page 8



## Festive fun

TV highlights and puzzles for all the family to enjoy

Inside



## Baggies' boss

Steve Clarke wins the manager of the month

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## Ice cream seller sent to jail over 'turf war'

AN ice cream war erupted in Dudley when a seller attacked a rival's van for cashing in on "his turf".

Steffan Debattista is now behind bars for his angry outburst against rival Maxine Catalano. He taunted her for eight miles after spotting her van on his patch.

She managed to get away from him but when her van ended up behind his at traffic lights in Birmingham Road, he deliberately reversed into her.

Prosecutor Miss Marisha Parathalingham told Wolverhampton Crown Court last week that Debattista sped off after the crash.

The 20-year-old was later traced because a witness made a note of the registration.

Debattista struck again 11 days later on September 15 last year while on bail for the first offence. This time he snapped off the handle of the machine in Miss Catalano's van, flooding it with ice cream, the court heard.

Debattista, from Boundary Hill, Lower Gornal, had denied both charges but pleaded guilty to criminal damage. Mr William Rickaby, defending, said: "He suffers from a hyperactive disorder and this episode has taught him a salutary lesson." Debattista was jailed for five months for dangerous driving and one month for criminal damage, to run concurrently, as well as being banned from driving for two years.

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## Jumpers on for charity

SHOPPERS are being invited to put on their best novelty Christmas jumpers and head over to the outdoor ice rink at Dudley's Merry Hill Centre on December 14.

The centre will host its first Christmas jumper skate-off for Save the Children.

The charity has created National Christmas Jumper Day. Between 10 and 11am that day, Merry Hill is asking shoppers and store staff to show their support. The aim will be to get as many people in their Christmas jumpers on the ice.

# BOOST IN BATTLE FOR HIPPODROME

by Andrew Turton

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome have been given a fresh boost after leading councillors visited the venue and said they hoped it could be preserved.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome issued an open invitation to the borough council to tour the building to see the potential for themselves. The art deco-styled 1,752-seater auditorium in Castle Hill hosted entertainment greats like Bob Hope, Laurel and Hardy and Tommy Cooper.

It was closed in 2009 after operating as a bingo hall. But the former theatre is facing the bulldozers because Dudley Council wants to tear it down as part of wider plans to regenerate the Castle Hill area. The Friends group gave 10 councillors a tour of the building and discussed their bid to re-open it as a community theatre.

Councillor Gaye Partridge was among those who attended.

"I was very impressed with what I saw. It is a lovely building. You can see where the campaigners are coming from," she said.

"When you start talking to the campaigners about it, it is very difficult not to get inspired by it. I'm hoping to read the business plan as well. I wish them well with their endeavours."

Councillor Hillary Bills also said: "I was encouraged by what people had been saying, but it has got a lot of issues that need addressing."

### Important

"If the project could get off the ground it would be wonderful. The business plan is important to show how it could work but I wish them well."

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome has submitted the latest version of a business plan to reopen and run the theatre as a community arts venue to Dudley Council.

They hope to host touring productions and regional theatre groups.

Plans also look at other ways to raise revenue including renovating the basement of the theatre into a live music venue.

They also hope to open an museum in the building detailing its history.

Campaign leader Geoff Fitzpatrick said he was delighted the councillors had been inside to look at the building and talk to group members.

"It has been absolutely great as we wanted people to not think of it as a bingo hall as it once was but as Dudley Hippodrome and consider our plans."

## Rhys gets business in gear



Car mechanic Rhys Davies who has set up his new business, FastFit, in Lye

A Lye car mechanic is hoping his new repair business in Lye will reach top gear after battling against the recession.

Rhys Davies has faced struggles with banks, insurance companies and mounting costs to fund his business.

But he has now managed to scrape together the cash set up his own garage in a bid to support his young family. Mr Davies, of New Street, Kingswinford, was forced to

go it alone after failing to find work. Applying for more than 300 jobs and spending £2000 posting out CVs, the 20-year-old was at his wits' end. But he set up his FastFit garage, in Dudley Road, Lye, in the past few weeks and is hoping the venture will now take off. Stourbridge MP Margot James heard about Mr Davies' difficulties and went to meet him to discuss what she could do to help.

## £1.25m is invested for future of trader

BOSSES of a family-owned Halesowen business said they had opened up the possibility of future expansion after investing £1.25 million in a new warehouse.

The 40,000 sq ft warehouse next to Blackheath Products headquarters in Fairfield Park has replaced three leased premises around the Halesowen area and has seen the business take on three extra staff so far.

Ian Foster, managing director of the company that supplies kitchen, bathroom and flooring products to the trade, said the vacant warehouse had been bought for just over £1m in June and the company had spent more than £200,000 on preparing it for use since then.

The company said it would now be able to hold greater levels of stock and broaden the range of products it can supply, while the site will also be used as a training centre for the fifth generation company, which employs 110.

Mr Foster said: "The new premises are next to our existing base and bring advantages – primarily it expands our storage space so we can widen our product range and offer a greater number of services to customers. It also means we are more efficient as a business because we have consolidated from three leased sites, whilst it gives the opportunity for future expansion."

## Special date for couples

THERE were a dozen good reasons to make the 12th of the 12th a special day.

And five couples decided it was just the day to put the icing on the cake by getting hitched.

Jennie Hollis and Marc Raybould, from Halesowen, and former Stourbridge man Antony Stanton and his Filipina bride Geraldine Lausea were among those who picked 12/12/12 to tie the knot. It was the last "triple" date for nearly a century - the next will be January 1210.

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## NEWS

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## CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

**Tom Mason:** 01902 319466  
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Charlotte Lilley:** 01902 319490  
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Will Ackermann:** 01384 353213  
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Heather Large:** 01384 353203  
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Adam Burling:** 01384 353209  
adam.burling@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Louise Jew:** 01384 353201  
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Andrew Turton:** 01384 353202  
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Lee Watton:** 01384 353230  
l.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. Email your information and pictures to dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

**Sports:** E-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk  
**Photographic John Sambrook**  
Tel: 01902 319431

## Advertising:

**Nikki Cope**  
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

**Emma Parkes**  
Tel: 01384 353234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

**Distribution: Paul Jones**  
Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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# Prolific burglars are sent to prison

TWO prolific burglars who raided 12 homes and stole four vehicles between them during a month-long crime spree have been jailed for more than three years.

Stuart Salt and Robert Smith burgled properties across the Dudley borough, taking more than £10,000 in TVs, computers and other electrical items. Smith stole a £15,000 Hyundai car from a petrol forecourt in Asda, Brierley Hill while the

owner was buying fuel. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the pair, who both have children, used the same white van at most of the burglaries and even backed it on to the drive of one property in Coppice Road, Coseley.

Salt, of Overbrook Close, Gornal Wood, and Smith, of Bilston Road, Monmore Green, Wolverhampton, were both originally arrested over the raid in Coppice Road and

another in Havacre Lane, Coseley. But Mr Warren Stanier, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court they then admitted a catalogue of other offences between September 18 and October 15.

They broke into four properties on October 15 alone.

In total the pair admitted burgling six homes together, and attempting to burgle three, while Smith also admitted a further bur-

glary and attempted burglary, as well as three thefts of motor vehicles. Salt, 31, was jailed for 40 months, with four months for a separate charge of handling a stolen mobile phone, while 29-year-old Smith got 44 months. Salt was also given six points on his licence for driving without insurance.

Judge Nicholas Webb told them: "You both went on something of a spree."

# Cheesey link never o-curd to burglar

A BURGLAR who stole £2,000 of computer equipment from a college for students with learning disabilities was brought to justice – after being caught with a lump of cheese stolen from the canteen fridge, a court heard.

Shane Smith burgled Stourbridge College's horticultural and catering centre in Leasowes Lane, Halesowen. He was linked to the raid on April 16 through fingerprints, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

When police searched his house two weeks after the break-in they found the cheese in his fridge and realised it was from the college.

The 23-year-old, of Haden Road, Cradley Heath, was handed a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Miss Rhiannon Jones, prosecuting, said Smith originally claimed he had only taken the lump of cheese.

The court was told he was accompanied by two other men, who have not been identified. Smith, who admitted burglary, was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation, and complete an alcohol treatment programme.

# Merry Hill banned toll is now at 28 and rising

THE tally of troublemakers banned from the Merry Hill shopping centre in the run-up to Christmas has risen to 28. And more are set to be stopped in their tracks as police use mobile fingerprinting devices and head-mounted cameras.

## Safari park gets ready to take on 250 workers

AROUND 250 seasonal jobs are up for grabs at West Midland Safari Park in Bewdley.

Positions available include catering and retail assistants, games supervisors and amusement ride operators.

New recruits are also needed to work on the animal reserves and in the admissions department.

Hundreds of hopefuls are expected to apply for the highly sought-after posts when the attraction's recruitment website launches on December 18.

A further 150 jobs will become available between April and July to boost staff numbers for the holiday season.

Both full and part-time staff are needed to help cover peak periods at the park.

Human resources manager Michelle Gale said: "We have been working on an upgraded staff induction and training package for the past three months.

"This has now been completed and our departments are very pleased with the results. We are sure that all new starters will benefit from enhanced training and gain invaluable work experience."

A clampdown on suspected shoplifters and anti-social behaviour was launched by police and security staff at the Dudley retail complex on November 1. It is part of a wider Black Country clampdown aimed at wrecking criminals' attempts to cash in on Christmas.

West Midlands Police officers are increasing their presence in busy shopping centres and towns throughout the region to try to make sure Christmas shoppers have an enjoyable, safe and trouble-free time.

But at Merry Hill they are going a step further, using hi-tech devices to identify and catch the crooks.

Anybody committing a crime can be excluded from the centre immediately for periods of between three months and two years.

### Festive

The initiative, to combat the usual festive increase in retail crime, was set up by police and Dudley's Business Crime Partnership.

Shoplifting, thefts from shoppers, cheque or card fraud, assault against business staff, alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour are among the crimes targeted.

Police and security staff patrolling the Merry Hill Centre are using head-cams to deter offenders and video evidence.

They are using a mobile ID system – consisting of a Blackberry Smart phone linked to a fingerprint reading device – so they can quickly check someone they have stopped is who they say they are.

## Choirs celebrate Christmas



Ellie Kovacs, aged 7, front with others from Jesson's Church of England Primary School Jubilate Choir and some of The Gentleman Songsters Male Voice Choir

A PRIMARY school choir and a male voice will celebrate Christmas together.

Jesson's Church of England Primary School's Jubilate Choir, Dudley, will join The Gentleman's Songsters for the Dudley Town Hall concert this Saturday, December 15. Musical director David Jackson said: "We sing pop music as well as hymns and religious music. At Saturday's concert we'll be singing a range, including a nice adaptation we have

of Sweet Child O' Mine." The Jubilate choir has about 30 members, aged between seven and 11, and is one of three choirs at the school, which specialises in the performing arts. Mr Jackson said: "We find music and performing arts help the children learn." The concert starts at 7.30pm. The school's three choirs will also be presenting a concert called That's What I Call Christmas on December 20 at 7pm at the town hall.

## Call to help jungle trek

THE Mayor of Dudley wants people to help boost his charities as one of his staff is to battle through 150 miles of South American jungle for good causes.

Dudley Council's mayoral attendant Mike Crannage is planning a 150 mile coast to coast race through the jungles of Costa Rica in February next year.

The 53-year-old will walk, run, climb, abseil and swim the equivalent of six marathons and complete the distance, from the Pacific coast to the Caribbean Sea, in 10 days. Visit [www.mikecrannage.com](http://www.mikecrannage.com).

## Christmas carols

DUDLEY Council has organised the annual civic carol service for December 20.

Dudley mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram will host the service at Christ Church, Coseley, from 7.30pm.

Dudley Young Voices, VTime and In Sound Company choirs will be helping raise the roof.

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## Chamber hire gets approved

PLANS to hire out the council chamber at Wyre Forest District Council's new £10 million headquarters to theatre groups to raise cash have been approved.

A total of eight rooms are available for meetings and events, costing up to £120 a day. Five rooms including the chamber are suitable for cabaret, while three can be used for theatre.

A council report says the chamber, which can hold 60 people, would cost £20 an hour, 265 per half day or £120 a day. Other rooms range from £55 to £100 a day.

The new premises at Fine-point Business Park has proved controversial, with some councillors saying that the cash could have been better spent in other areas.

But the council says services under one roof will help save around £500,000 every year. The plans have now been approved by council leader John Campion.

The report by Wyre Forest's director of community assets and localism, Caroline Newlands, says: "To enable the building facilities to be used effectively and efficiently, it is proposed we offer the use of the meeting rooms in the public access part of the building."

## £500,000 deal is won

A DUDLEY software company has won a contract in Australia worth more than £500,000 to help a carmaker look for new customers.

Chrysalis-Solimotive adapted its UK software programmes to suit potential customers in Australia.

The move paid off when it penned a three-year contract with an international division of an automotive manufacturer's first company worth 840,000 Australian Dollars (£548,000).

Since then Chrysalis-Solimotive in Market Street, Stourbridge, has grown its operations.

## Christmas fair to help church

A CHRISTMAS fair will be held to help repair and reopen a Dudley Church. The fair will be at the Quality Hotel from 6.30pm until 9.30pm on December 19.

Money will go toward restoration work at St John's Church, Kates Hill, Dudley. Admission is 50p for adults and free for children.

## Homes bid on brickworks site is allowed

Plans for more than 100 new homes, a craft village and nursing home on the site of a historic former brickworks on the Dudley-South Staffordshire border can go ahead after the Government gave the green light.

David Wilson Homes and Weinerberger have been granted outline planning permission for the development at Baggeridge Brickworks in Gospel End, Sedgley.

The developers had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against South Staffordshire Council's decision to refuse their application earlier this year.

Councillors had argued that the development would be too large for the village but

developers say it would boost the area's economy and attract new visitors. A planning inquiry was held last month, and now the scheme, which includes 140 homes, 12 craft workshops, a 60-bedroom nursing home and new road access from the A463, has been approved after a planning inspector ruled it was an appropriate development. The decision signals the end of the site's long association with brickmaking which stretches back to the 1930s.

During the inquiry, the hearing was told that the plans go against the Black Country Core Strategy, which lays out guidelines for major building projects in the region.

But the applicants said there was a "clear need" for new houses and a nursing home in the area. Announcing his decision to allow the appeal, planning inspector John Papworth said the scheme would enable a previously developed site to be reused and would remove derelict buildings and land.

He said the project would include the retention of the brickworks chimney to retain "a visual reminder of the site's history". Mr Papworth said the scheme would bring many benefits such as affordable housing, care home beds and new employment benefits.

He added: "The proposal would not be

inappropriate development in the green belt, and redevelopment of the site would bring benefits to openness and the character and appearance of the area." But the chairman of South Staffordshire Council's regulatory committee Councillor Brian Cox said: "We're obviously disappointed that the inspector has concluded that the development would provide substantial benefits over the present situation. Gospel End is a small hamlet which would be more than doubled in size by these plans.

"We felt there was a lack of local services to sustain a development of this size – we feel it's just simply in the wrong location."

## Permission to demolish the King Arthur pub is secured

THE OWNER of a Dudley pub, which is on a main route through the Black Country, has secured consent to demolish it, despite calls for it to be preserved.

Amrinder Singh can now knock down the King Arthur on the corner of Priory Road and Birmingham New Road. The demolition plans had sparked calls for the building, a 1930s roadside, to be preserved.

Mr Singh had informed Dudley Council of his plans, and under planning rules the authority had 28 days to object.

Ward councillor Alan Finch said he was disappointed the council had been "powerless" to stop the building from being knocked down.

Two years ago, the pub, which is locally listed, had been earmarked for a £3.5million revamp.

It would have been extended to create a hotel, and planning permission for the scheme was granted in May 2010.

It is not yet known what will happen to the site, which had previously been put up for sale and then taken off the market.

Mr Singh could not be contacted for a comment but his agent Neil Denison said he did not know what was planned for the site or if the demolition would definitely go ahead.

## Driver in road rage attack

A MOTORIST was punched and kicked to the ground in a road rage attack during rush hour in Dudley.

The man was assaulted by the driver and passenger of a green Peugeot 206 at the junction of Flood Street Island on the Southern by-pass. The attack happened after the victim went to check if the Peugeot driver was not in distress.

The attacker had cut in front of the victim's vehicle and a lorry before approaching the junction. Anyone who witnessed the attack on November 6 should call police on 101.



Headteacher David Kemp, who is heading to Africa, with college pupils

## Head is heading out to aid Africans

A HEADTEACHER who has transformed a Stourbridge school is bidding a fond farewell to his fellow staff and pupils and is preparing for an education project in Africa.

David Kemp took over the former Grange School 11 years ago and steered it through to becoming Pedmore Technology College and Community School in 2005.

Under his leadership, it has grown from a "satisfactory" Ofsted rating to being "a good school with outstanding features", while the number of pupils gaining at least five A\* to C GCSE grades has grown by 40 per cent.

Mr Kemp, aged 59, a teacher for 30 years who lives in Kings Heath, Birmingham, said: "I'm going out on a high."

"And I'm not really retiring because, after a six month break, I intend to join an education development project somewhere in East Africa, although the location is yet to be decided."

Mr Kemp, a widower, started his teaching career in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and has also worked in the Gulf state of Oman.

## NEWS

### in brief

#### Nursery looking to expand diner

A NURSERY has applied to extend its restaurant so it can cater to a growing number of customers.

Rowberry's Nursery in Lower Chaddesley Corbett, Kidderminster, has applied to extend its 336sqm site by 168sqm.

In his application, the owner Mr C Rowberry said: "The restaurant has proved very popular. "We therefore require additional space in order to meet the demand from customers. The design is to match the existing building."

#### Plea on term for sex crime rejected

A PAEDOPHILE who was jailed for assaulting two young boys has lost an appeal against his minimum jail term.

Mark Colin Dixon, aged 28, of Blackacre Road, Dudley, was sentenced to imprisonment for public protection at Wolverhampton Crown Court in August for rape and attempted rape and ordered to serve a minimum of six years before applying for release, but he had challenged the length of term at the Court of Appeal.

#### Village path will get improvements

IMPROVEMENTS are to be carried out on a public footpath in the village of Belbroughton, near Stourbridge.

Belbroughton Parish Council has ordered the work on the path from the village's recreation ground to its school.

The work is likely to take place in the week beginning December 17.

#### Hotel would be a welcome boost

A £6 million plan for a Premier Inn hotel and restaurant on a main route into Stourbridge will bring a welcome boost to the town, a civic leader says.

Chairman of Stourbridge Township Council Margaret Scott described the scheme earmarked for land off Birmingham Street as a "great idea".

If planning permission is granted, 65 jobs would be created.

#### Christmas meal

BELBROUGHTON Horticultural Society will hold its Christmas supper at the church hall on December 14, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8. Call 01562 711118.

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## NEWS

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THANKS for the suggestion but William and Kate are not going to call the kid Josey Wales.

□□□□□□□

AND now a few words on the health benefits of being a lardarse: "If she (Kate) wasn't so damn skinny she'd have a bit of fat to cope with the weight loss and dehydration. She doesn't, hence the need to hospitalise her as her thinness increases her risk factor." (From Sky News website, where all opinions are equally valid).

□□□□□□□

REJOICE, for the law will be changed to prevent females being discriminated against in the succession to the British Crown. Whatever sex it happens to be, William and Kate's baby will one day be monarch, because it will be the oldest of their children. Is that fair?

By automatically crowning the oldest kid, we are swapping one form of discrimination (sexism) for another (ageism). Why should the second or third child not be monarch? How dare the system deny them the top job just because, by an accident of history, they are younger? If my argument strikes you as nonsense today, bear in mind that the very idea of sexually-equal succession would have seemed treason, or even heresy, only 50 years ago. William and Kate's child is unlikely to take the throne for another half-century and you can bet your life that our views and values that seem so reasonable to us in 2012 will seem bonkers to our great-great grandchildren.

□□□□□□□

ACTUALLY, the best and most traditional way to choose the monarch is for the rival claimants to assemble about 20,000 terrified peasants each on a bit of open ground (Edgehill, Towton, etc) and command them to bash each other's brains out. Winner takes all.

□□□□□□□

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# Nasty rivalry which left victim cold with terror

ICE cream turf war victim Maxine Catalano has told of her terror after rival seller Steffan Debattista went into meltdown because he kept spotting her van on territory he claimed as his own.

The 20-year-old Maltseborn Dudley man chased her and her teenage niece and then reversed into her vehicle.

After being jailed Debattista's Steff's Ices van is locked up on the driveway of his home in Boundary Hill, Lower Gornal.

As relatives and neighbours of Debattista painted a much sweeter picture of their local ice cream man, even saying they were launching a petition to free him, grandmother Miss Catalano described him as "arrogant" with a bad temper.

Miss Catalano, said: "I never gave Steff any grief but he was arrogant and I think he had a problem with me because I was a woman. His anger was terrifying."

Miss Catalano, a 49-year-old mother of three who lives in Oldbury, sold ice cream for Ronnie O'Sullivan's uncle, Antonio Catalano, the father of her 17-year-old son Giuseppe, from 1993 until 2004.

Then, during last year, she took a job driving for Steve's Super Whip, of Cox's Lane, Cradley Heath.

It was on September 4, as she drove along Dibdale Road, Gornal, at about 1.40pm she saw Debattista behind her. She said: "He was trying to



Steffan Debattista

cut in front of me and to ram me and I went towards the Priory ruins in The Broadway.

When we passed the Fellows Club, next to Dudley Zoo, he was still with us and, when we stopped at the old JB's night club he parked adjacent."

### Threatened

She said he leaned out of his window and threatened to smash her van. Miss Catalano told how she continued to drive around the area near Burnt Tree and Tividale to try to dodge him, with the police emergency services on her intercom in the van as she reported the drama.

But then, near the new Tesco at Burnt Tree, she realised he had driven out

from a slip road and was directly in front.

"I saw Steff suddenly start reversing his van directly at me and he kept accelerating then stopping in front," she said.

"I pulled up behind his van, outside the Floors to Go shop. I saw him suddenly start reversing his van directly at me and he collided, causing about £1,500 damage to my van." Miss Catalano says both she and her 13-year-old niece who was with her in the van received back and neck injuries. But it didn't end there. While Debattista was on bail for damaging her vehicle, on September 15 2011 she was selling ice cream on the corner of Tudor Road and Glen Road, Upper Gornal, when he arrived in his red Vauxhall Astra car, told her she should not be serving at that time and he wanted the phone number of her boss.

But, when she refused, he leaned forward and grabbed the lever of the ice cream dispensing machine, breaking it off and causing £600 damage.

Debattista's mother, 44-year-old Michelle Debattista, and his 17-year-old girlfriend Tammy Jones are distraught. Mrs Debattista claimed Miss Catalano had "wound him up". "The sentence is so unfair and harsh."



Ice cream seller Maxine Catalano and niece Chloe Smith, who were terrorised

# Criminals targeted in festive operation

Known crooks in the Dudley area will face a Christmas advent count down of a different kind.

Officers from Dudley's Local Policing Unit have launched a series of warrants and other action against known offenders, running up to December 24.

Operation Advent is targeting people suspected of illegal activity, aiming to spoil criminals' intent to profit from the festive season, when there is traditionally an increase in burglaries, robberies and vehicle crime. Warrants could be issued under the Misuse of Drugs Act or might relate to offences such as handling stolen goods.

And the campaign will also include "drink drive lock downs", with officers taking a "no-tolerance" approach to people tempted to get behind the wheel after Christmas parties.

Insp Richard Jones, who is leading the initiative, said: "December is always a busy month for police."

### Help with abuse

**DUDLEY** People can get help and advice on dealing with domestic abuse at Christmas.

**Safe & Sound**, Dudley's community safety partnership is running its 12 Safer Days of Christmas campaign to give residents 12 safety tips. Domestic abuse can be reported on 0121 626 8078.

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## NEWS

in brief

**Council scheme hits the £1m mark**  
A COUNCIL scheme has received more than £1 million of card and cash payments in a single month for the first time.

Bosses say the milestone, which was reached in October by Dudley Council Plus, demonstrates the centre on Castle Street, continues to be popular with residents as a place to visit and pay their council bills.

The news comes just a month after Callpay, the council's round-the-clock 24/7 automated telephone payment system, reached the £50 million mark.

**Police officer gets lifesaving award**

A POLICEMAN who twice revived a cyclist from Stourbridge after a crash has received a top lifesaving award. Pc Steve Mason brought Mark Ashton back to life after the cyclist was hit by a van.

It happened in Churchill, Worcestershire in March when Mr Ashton, of Ridge Street, Woolsaton, suffered multiple injuries. Pc Mason received the Royal Humane Society Resuscitation Certificate.

**Students help to build new school**

STUDENTS at Stourbridge's Ridgewood High School have been busy raising money for a new school in The Gambia.

The Student Voice charity Taskforce organised the week..

**Scheme for reopening railway line**

REGIONAL transport bosses confirmed talks have been held with a firm looking to reopen an existing rail freight line for passenger services through Dudley.

But they say the plans are just one option.

Others include extending the Midland Metro to Dudley and Brierley Hill.

Parry People Movers, Cradley Heath, had already drawn up initial £5 million proposals to open a tram-train service on a line from Stourbridge to Brierley Hill.

They outlined plans to use the freight line from Stourbridge Junction to the former Round Oak station, Brierley Hill, with three metro-style stations.

Bosses at West Midlands Transport Authority Centro say they have held talks with the engineering firm and are considering it against other options on the table.

Centro spokesman Peter Cameron said: "We have received a proposal about the possibility of running a passenger service, using Parry People Mover technology.

"While we acknowledge that additional passenger services in this area could benefit residents, we are still looking at all the options available."

**Quiz night date**

HAGLEY Wives and Women's Fellowship will hold a quiz night on January 8, at 8pm in St Saviour's Church, Hagley.

# Vision of new supermarket to spark a revival of centre

ARTISTS impressions have been unveiled of a new supermarket in the heart of Dudley town centre that could bring hundreds of jobs. With striking floor-to-ceiling glass walls and curved architecture, the development would transform an outdated office block in the town.

Cavendish Quarter Properties Ltd wants to build the supermarket and petrol station where Cavendish House stands in Trindle Road. Residents have been calling for the unsightly building to be knocked down for some time. The images show how the office block would be replaced with a modern supermarket and landscaped areas with an adjoining car park. The proposals, which would bring up to 300 full and part-time positions, have now been recommended for approval by council planners.

They have backed the scheme saying it will bring employment to the town and revamp a partially derelict site, which has been earmarked for regeneration.

Under the plans, Cavendish House will be knocked down and the site, as well as neighbouring land, will be cleared to make way for the store and petrol station.

A total of 402 parking spaces would be created partly underneath the store and on two decked levels. It would be operated as a free car park, limited to a two hour maximum stay but it's not yet known which store chain would move on to the site.

In a report planning officers said: "On balance, even though there are acknowledge potential impacts on some existing food stores within Dudley and the catchment area, the proposed development will lead to the positive improvement of an existing, partly derelict Dudley town centre development site."

The scheme has been welcomed by English Heritage, who said the development would "potentially help to improve the overall outlook towards the town centre from the castle".

Chris McPherson, development director for Cavendish Quarter Properties, said: "A significant amount of work has gone into all aspects of this scheme to ensure it will bring a high quality development that will regenerate the town centre. Cavendish House and the surrounding area has been in need of redevelopment for many years."



This is an artist's impression of how the rundown Cavendish House could be transformed into a modern supermarket



View of Cavendish House from Trindle Hill, in Dudley

**Quiz night date**

HAGLEY Wives and Women's Fellowship will hold a quiz night on January 8, at 8pm in St Saviour's Church, Hagley.



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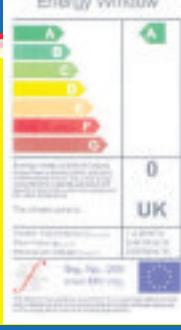
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## NEWS

# Free parking extension is under consideration

TOWN leaders in Bewdley are considering extending a free car parking period beyond Christmas following calls from businesses.

Wyre Forest District Council introduced the scheme - which provides free parking after 4pm at all council sites and at Dog Lane on Saturdays and Tuesdays - last month in a bid to boost the festive trade.

The initiative is set to expire on January 13, but traders are calling for it to be extended into the New Year when roadworks will begin in the town.

In response, the council's town centre manager Peter Michael has said the move will be considered.

He said: "The free parking has been successful. We have had a few positive comments and people saying they would like to see it extended."

"The council is going to have to do a sort of balancing act of the goodwill against the loss of parking revenue."

"The scheme runs out in January, something will have been decided by then."

Mr Michael also said he was looking at potentially altering the 4pm scheme so people can park for free from 3pm.

Among the traders who have called for the free parking is Phil Brooks, owner of The Deli@Bewdley, in Load Street.

He made the plea ahead of work which will start on the town's pavements and bridge in the New Year.

He said: "We will all face a bit of disruption, so any help we can get from the council would obviously be appreciated."

### Migrants drop is praised

NEW figures showing immigration has fallen by almost a quarter have been welcomed by Dudley MP Chris Kelly.

The statistics show migration at its lowest level since 2004. Mr Kelly said: "People in the region will be pleased to see immigration under control."

## 'Spanner' stops meeting



Protesters opposed to 175 new homes but the meeting was cancelled

PROTESTORS opposing plans for 175 new homes in the countryside near Stourbridge turned up at a crunch meeting - to find it had been cancelled at the 11th hour.

Bromsgrove District Council's planning chairman revealed a "spanner" was thrown in the works" by a last-minute legal hitch.

A letter was received by the council at 1.30pm - four-and-a-half hours before the planning committee meeting - from a barrister representing Hagley and Cleint Parish Councils.

It claimed, because the land at Hagley was earmarked to be removed from the green belt for

development, a public forum would need to rule upon whether it was economically, socially and environmentally "sustainable" before any planning application was decided.

Dozens of villagers had turned up expecting to have their say with the planners, urging that councillors should reject the proposals by Cala Homes to build on land owned by Viscount Cobham, of Hagley Hall.

But they were met at the doors to the council house by planning chairman, Councillor Richard Deeming, who said: "We all wanted a decision tonight but this has thrown a spanner in the works."

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## LETTERS

## Press redress for ordinary people

I HAVE a somewhat ambivalent view on governmental control of the Press. Even though it now seems that this would be, in cricketing terms, a kind of 'long stop', there are always reasons why our freedoms depend upon some conduct for free speech.

In homing in on the despicable actions of certain sections of the Press, specifically phone hacking, we should never forget the importance of the media in highlighting problems with the establishment, public services, big business etc and in fact we should be careful when legislating for an organ which calls government to account.

## Freedom of the Press paramount for society

I WRITE with regard to the arguments raging both for and against the possibility of legally enforced press restrictions.

I am firmly of the opinion it would be a huge retrograde step to curb the power of the Press as to render it so toothless as to be continually looking over its shoulder, and to be consulting its legal representatives, even before putting thoughts into words.

I have always been under the impression this little island of ours was a democracy, and fully believe the freedom of the Press is of paramount importance to democracy.

If these draconian measures were to indeed become ensconced in law, I can it being a backwards step. What happened to I may not agree with what you say but I will defend with my life your right to say it?

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## NEWS

# Church building saved in move by worshippers

FIVE years ago, the future of a Dudley church looked bleak. In 2007, after 125 years, Woodsetton Methodist Church was faced with being bulldozed.

Its congregation had been unable to find the six-figure sum that was needed for repairs. But now, as the building prepares to celebrate 130 years, a new church group is moving into the venue.

Members of the Seventh-day Adventist congregation have outgrown their site in Himley Road and will now move in to the Parkes Hall Road building.

Dan Majaducon, pastor of the congregation, said: "The property has a good size of land. Parking in Dudley is very difficult so when we saw the land behind the two buildings we knew we could have a car park for churchgoers and visitors.

"They are also two beautiful buildings."

In December 2007, it was reported how the church's last set of parishioners had been saddened by the news the building had to be closed.

Some had fought for a stay of execution while they made efforts to raise the £100,000 they needed to fix it but this was refused.

Mr Majaducon said the Seventh-day Adventist Church had already spent well over £200,000 on the buildings, including repairs. He said the group had refurbished the building and given it a new car park and, while there were still a few more things to do on his list of improvements, the main hall was ready for church services.

The group will introduce itself to the community with a Christmas Cantata on December 15, he said, before celebrating its 130th birthday. It starts at 4.30pm.

## Plea for run volunteers

VOLUNTEERS running an annual fun day in Netherton Park are appealing for fundraisers to help support next year's event. Details from: [friends@nethertonpark.com](mailto:friends@nethertonpark.com).

## Former pupils reunited

HUNDREDS of ex-pupils from a Tipton school took a trip down memory lane at a reunion.

The old school may have long been demolished and the name changed, but there was plenty to discuss between the former students of Willingsworth High School. From tales of caning in front of class to sports days in the sun, ex-pupils of all ages shared their memories at Tipton Social Club recently.

Brothers Mark and Paul Hazel were there. Metal-worker Mark, aged 47, and self-employed Paul, 42, both of Coronation Road, shared memories of punishments.

Mark said: "Teachers were stricter back then. I was caned six times in front of the class for letting off a fire extinguisher. It's something you don't forget."

Paul said: "I got the pump for forgetting my towel for PE. That was a



Organiser Joanne Fitzpatrick, and her daughter, Kirsty-Lea, surrounded by other ex-pupils of the school

slap on the bottom six times with a slipper. I can remember it hurt."

He added: "Aside from that, I really enjoyed my time at the school."



The reunion for former pupils of Willingsworth High School at the Tipton Sports Academy Social Club, in Wednesbury Oak Road, Tipton.



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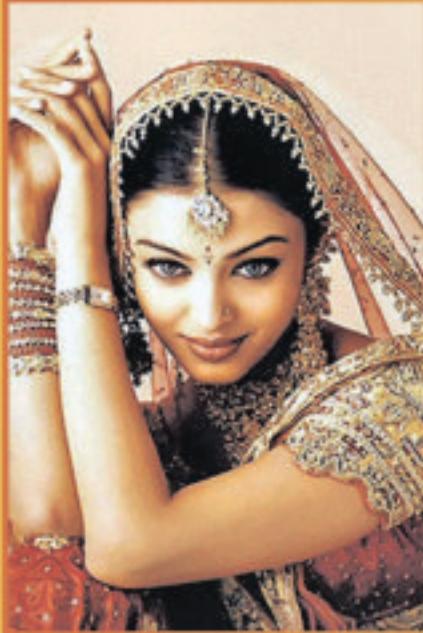
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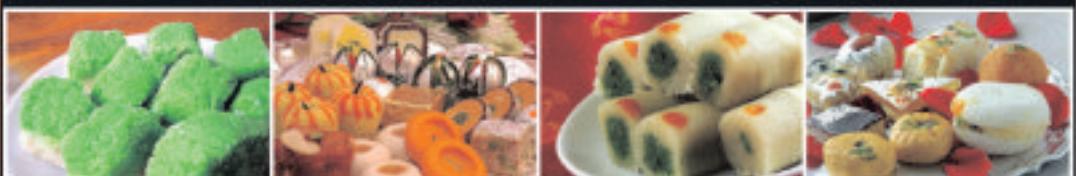
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## Sung from the heart



Lauren Alexandra has released a Christmas single to raise funding for Heart Research UK

A SCHOOLGIRL singer has released a single to raise funds for Heart Research UK.

Lauren Alexandra, aged 15, from Bewdley, has recorded Where Are You Christmas? which is available to download.

The original, released by American country singer Faith Hill, featured in the 2000 Dr Seuss film How The Grinch Stole Christmas.

A student at Bewdley School & Sixth Form, Lauren has announced all profits from her first single will be going to Heart Research UK.

Lauren, who is the voice of the charity's Sing For Your Heart campaign, explains: "It's such an emotive time of year."

She said: "So many people have all come together to make this happen in such a short space of time."

The singer will be performing the song throughout the Midlands as part of the sixth national Sing For Your Heart week. The national campaign runs until December 15.

Alongside Lauren, nine schools, with around 300 pupils and teachers, will also be performing at the fundraising concert.

John Lloyd, from Heart Research UK, said: "This has been our most ambitious Sing for Your Heart campaign in the Midlands yet but we're absolutely delighted with the support we have had from local schools."

# Two year ban on fishing at pool is set to be removed

ANGLERS banned from a pool at a beauty spot for two years will be allowed to start fishing there again. The pool is at the 67-hectare Leasowes site in Halesowen.

It was closed to anglers so the area surrounding it could recover from what was described as overuse. Concerns were also raised after two ducks became caught in fishing lines and died. Dudley Council has now declared the area recovered and, while they will continue to monitor the site, anglers will be welcomed back early next year.

Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "We hope to meet with the anglers' representatives in January and, following this meeting, we will be announcing our plans for the re-introduction of fishing to The Leasowes in 2013."

She added: "The Leasowes is a beautiful historic landscape and it is important it feels open and accessible to all whether dog walkers, bird watchers, golfers, anglers, or just families enjoying a pleasant day out."

"Thanks to the support of responsible anglers during this temporary suspension, the delicate balance of the pools has been restored."

Fishing would again be allowed at four spots at Leasowes Pool and it is hoped there would be none of the littering and night fishing from a small group of anglers that prompted the ban.

Campaigners were tight-lipped remained tight-lipped about lifting the ban.

Marianne Diller, of Friends of the Leasowes, refused to comment, and Marion Harvey, who had previously been outspoken against the lifting of the ban, would not comment over the phone.

The Leasowes pool is one of three council-managed pools across the borough.

Fishing is permitted at four designated spots at Leasowes Pool. A licence is not required at The Leasowes.

Environment Agency representatives visit the area regularly, and anyone found fishing without a licence at licensed pools could be fined.

by Sharon Marris

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# Proposal for new hotel could provide 65 jobs

PREMIER Inn has unveiled plans to open an 80-bed hotel and restaurant on a main route into Stourbridge, in a move which could create up to 65 jobs.

The chain has lodged plans for the £6 million development on land off Birmingham Street, which will be shortly left vacant by Cox Hire Ltd. The scheme includes a Brewers Fayre restaurant.

Bosses say the hotel would provide a boost for local business and tourism. It would come hot on the heels of work starting on a 63-bed hotel in Dudley.

A planning application for the Stourbridge site has been sent to Dudley Council by Whitbread Property Plc and Barberry Developments.

Cox Hire Ltd is moving to a site in

Netherton. The application said the scheme would create "an exciting gateway development for Stourbridge".

An L-shaped four-storey hotel would be built with a 122 space car park.

A report from agent Turley Associates says: "In addition to providing new job opportunities, the proposal would also support local businesses and encourage increased visitor spending in the area."

Chairman of Stourbridge Township Council Margaret Scott said it was "an interesting development" and she would be looking at the detailed plans.

The developers said around 100 residents and businesses had already been consulted and five letters of support had been sent in.

# Two are guilty of killing

**TWO friends have been found guilty of manslaughter for attacking a man from Dudley with a baseball bat and a wooden pole.**

Ismaael Rehman died of his injuries after being hit on the head. Mr Rehman, of Surrey Road, Holly Hall, Dudley, had gone to drug dealer Jason Noto's flat in Telford with the intention of either buying or robbing cannabis from him, a jury at Birmingham Crown Court had been told.

Mr Rehman had turned up with his friend Robert Jones, known as Tyson. Noto grabbed a baseball bat from inside the flat and attacked the trainee carpenter. Eyewitnesses told the jury

he was dragged up and ordered to "get on his knees and pray" by Noto before being smashed over the head and knocked unconscious with the bat by factory worker Jones.

The pair continued to beat Mr Rehman, who was 22 at the time of the attack in July 2009, before he managed to stagger away.

He was found lying nearby and rushed to hospital with a fractured skull, bleeding on the brain, a fractured cheekbone and bruising all over his body. Neurosurgeon Rupert Price had earlier told the jury Mr Rehman would have died within days if he had not been operated on.

He was in recovery after spending months in rehabilitation centres but died on New Year's Day 2011, aged 24,

after suffering a massive epileptic seizure. Prosecuting counsel Mr Andrew O'Byrne said it was clear Mr Rehman had developed epilepsy as a result of the assault and there was a "direct causal link" between the attack and his death nearly 18 months later. Noto, 24, of Powis Place, Dawley Bank, Telford, and Jones, also 24, of Webb Crescent, Dawley, Telford, had both denied murder. A jury returned verdicts of manslaughter against both men after more than 10 hours of deliberations yesterday.

Speaking after the verdict, Mr Rehman's mother Khursheed said: "Our lives will never be the same, he never will have the opportunity to have children, or us grandparents to his children."

## Report call on potholes

Recent heavy rainfall and plummeting temperatures may create potholes - and Worcestershire County Council wants people to report them quickly.

It spent £60 million in three years to improve roads, including finding and fixing about 33,000 problems caused in winter.

Councillor John Smith, said: "If you spot a problem, let us know - the sooner we know about it, the sooner we can come out and have it fixed." People can report potholes at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myselfservice/pothole.aspx](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myselfservice/pothole.aspx)

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| Normal Collection Day       | Collection Arrangements    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday 24 December, 2012    | No change                  |
| Tuesday 25 December, 2012   | Saturday 29 December, 2012 |
| Wednesday 26 December, 2012 | Sunday 30 December, 2012   |
| Thursday 27 December, 2012  | No change                  |
| Friday 28 December, 2012    | No change                  |
| Monday 31 December, 2012    | No change                  |
| Tuesday 1 January, 2013     | Saturday 5 January, 2013   |

The **HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**, Shidas Lane, Oldbury will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

**CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTIONS** You can cut up your real Christmas tree and put it in your garden waste bin however we will also be collecting Christmas trees between 7 - 25 January 2013. Call us on **0845 359 7501** to arrange a collection. Trees can also be taken to the Household Recycling Centre.

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[contact@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:contact@sandwell.gov.uk) Saturdays 8.30am - 1.30pm

The Contact Centre will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day.  
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| 205/55R16 BF Goodrich 91V         | £69  |
| 205/55R16 Bridgestone T001 91V    | £74  |
| 225/45R17 Marshal KH35 94W XL     | £75  |
| 225/45R18 BF Goodrich 92Y XL      | £101 |

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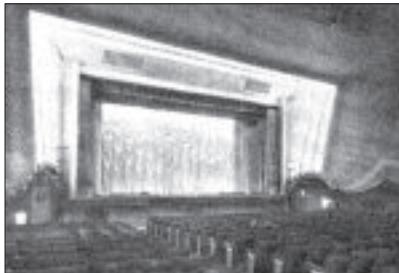
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George Formby meets Walsall Mayor Dr E P Drabble



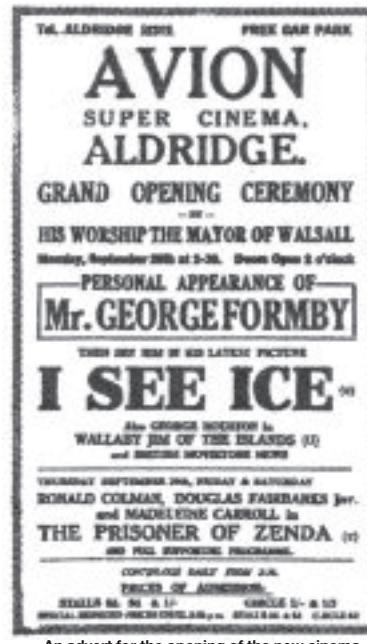
The magnificent proscenium stage at The Avion



Avion staff pictured sometime in the 1950s



The Avion's luxurious foyer circa 1938



An advert for the opening of the new cinema

# Book on cinema is the last work of historian

by Tom Mason

A BOOK based upon the scrapbooks of a cinema manager was launched last week by friends of an Aldridge author, who dedicated the last years of his life to its research.

The Avion, by the late author and historian Harry Dennant, tells the stories behind the village's cinema. The grand picture palace was focal point of the community during its heyday during the golden age of Hollywood and also saw live performances from top entertainers, such as George Formby.

The book was largely derived from the scrapbooks of the general manager Harry Russell, who worked there for 20 years, as well as from firsthand accounts of patrons and former staff recorded by Mr Dennant since 2007.

The Avion Cinema De Luxe was built by businessman Albert Brain and opened in September 26, 1938, to bring a touch of Hollywood glamor to Aldridge.

As well as being a cinema showing American and British movies, The Avion also put on shows and in its later years, like so many cinemas, became a bingo hall.

It hosted George Formby for its grand opening before the war but the premises also saw many other stars after it introduced variety acts in 1950.

## Comedian

These included comedian Larry Grayson, famous for hosting The Generation Game and his 'Shut That Door' catchphrase, pianist Semprini and Irish crooner Val Doonican with his group The Ramblers.

Aldridge jockey Johnny Bullock, winner of the 1951 Grand National on 40-1 outsider Nickel Coin, was guest of honour at The Avion to watch a newsreel of his famous victory.

In 1973 an Aldridge man, Harry Whitehouse, purchased the building and converted it into the popular bingo hall, and it remained in his family until his death in 1993 at the age of 83. It was taken over by Jarglen and later Gala Bingo before being abandoned in 2009.

The building was partially demolished but its shell is to be turned into a JD Wetherspoons pub under plans approved by Walsall Council.

In her foreword, the book's editor Sue Satterthwaite said: "There could be no one better than Harry Dennant to write a book about The Avion. Harry loved the place but sadly he died before his work could be completed."

Proceeds from sales of the book, priced £50 will go to two local charities - Rosie's Helping Hands, a charity which Harry supported, and St Giles Walsall Hospice where the author spent the final days of his life.

The book is available from several local outlets. These include Aldridge Library, in Rookery Lane, Aldridge; Scrumptious Sweets and Treats, Anchor Parade, Aldridge; Lynda's Pets and Plants Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge; and Waterstones, in Park Street, Walsall.

## THE AVION ALDRIDGE



From the revised work of

HARRY DENNANT

Edited by Sue Satterthwaite

Harry Dennant's book on the village's movie palace

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| Oxford Landing (Assorted)<br>75cl 3 for £11.00 | Stones Ginger Wine<br>75cl £3.79   | Banks's Mild & Bitter<br>500ml 24 Cans £17.49 |   | Bell's 70cl<br>£10.69  | Gordon's 70cl<br>£10.69 | Smirnoff 70cl<br>£10.69 | Amaretto 70cl<br>£5.99 |

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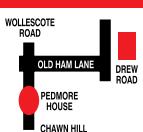
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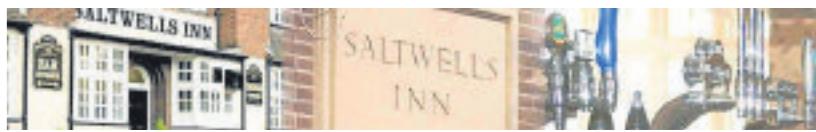
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# the saltwells inn

**The Saltwells Inn is definitely the place to go for good food at a great price.**

You will always find a warm welcome from Dean and his staff along with a great, relaxed atmosphere for all the family to enjoy. The Saltwells is set in the Saltwells Nature Reserve and is unrivalled for its location and tranquil setting, a great stop off for ramblers to refuel.

Recently the Saltwells started their new carvery which is available Monday to Friday from 12pm until 3pm priced at just £3.99. The carvery has been a great success the plans are to extend it to include Saturdays and until 5pm. The main menu is always available along with their fantastic selection of specials and not to forget the Real Ale selection to compliment any meal!

Being a family pub the Saltwells has two outside play areas along with a kids games room and families are allowed throughout with the exception of the bar which is still kept as an adults only haven.

The Saltwells has several promotion nights running:- Mondays is Pie and Pud Night, get any Pie plus any dessert for just £5.95. Tuesdays is Steak Night and on Fridays you'll get a free pint with any home-made curry ordered after 5pm. The Sunday Lunch is just £5.25 for two courses - either a home-made soup starter or any dessert from our menu coupled with a roast main course.

The Saltwells has something to offer to all age groups young and older alike, The Earlybird Selection is a firm favourite running from 3pm-7pm Sunday to Friday and 12 noon - 5pm on Saturdays, it offers great savings off main meals and fantastic value.

Bed and Breakfast is also available at reasonable rates, great for when visiting friends or when family are staying over.

All over the Festive Season they offer a 3 course festive meal at £9.95 but sorry not on Christmas Day as Dean and all his staff spend that single day of the year with their own families and the pub stays shut! It's back open and back to normal for Boxing Day with full menu available all day.

New Years Eve is Family Party Night, aimed at the whole family this is a great relaxing night with a live singer to entertain you, tickets now on sale.

**Come along and meet Dean and his staff and you're sure to get a warm welcome whenever you pop in.**

**Good food at great prices!**



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# CHRISTMAS

## Hilda and Harry's house lets it glow for a festive spectacle



Hilda and Harry Creaney's house in Willenhall is like a real life grotto after they went all out decorating it with trees, lights and decorations



A family of Santas are among the decorations inside the house in Walsall Street



Tracy, Hilda, Harry, and Dawn are pictured outside their super festive house



George Hall, of Swallowfields Road, Sedgley, with grandchildren Myles and Cameron Davies



Neil Robbins outside his home in Douglas Road, Smethwick, which has a giant polar bear in the garden

IT has been a festive attraction in the Black Country for years and with hundreds of Santas, snowmen, baubles and tinsel there is no doubt Hilda Creaney's semi-detached house is well and truly ready for Christmas 2012.

More than 1,000 decorations adorn the hallway and living room of the house in Walsall Street, Willenhall, which Hilda shares with her husband Harry. And outside the front door, along with the bright decorations which include Santas, reindeer and stars, stands a postbox which each year gets around 300 letters for Santa from children, all of which receive a reply.

Inside the house Santas, snowmen, penguins, angels and elves are arranged on the ceiling, walls and every flat surface, costing from 50p to £400.

The retired social work assistant said she loves this time of year: "I love Christmas and I love to see the children's faces when they see what we've done here. The local nursery school come up to see the house and I always show them the crib in the hall and tell them that is what Christmas is really about."

Her preparations for the Christmas season start in the middle of November when the boxes of baubles, tinsel and other decorations are brought out of storage at a nephew's factory. Putting the lights on the front of the house is another big job which is carried out by Hilda's grandson Jamie and friends.

The interior of the family's cosy home is transformed into a Christmas grotto with the big switch-on taking place on the last Saturday in November when about 25 friends and family travel from Wales, Telford and Birmingham for the occasion. The tradition, which started nearly

40 years ago, was inspired by a Yuletide-themed picture which her three children coloured in. Carl, now 49 and a Walsall councillor, Tracy, 47, and Dawn, 37, and their friends worked for days on the artwork. Dad Harry was so impressed he mounted the picture in a glass-fronted box with a strip light and displayed it in the bay window.

Harry says: "People ask whether I get depressed when it all has to come down and it's true that I do. But on the other hand, it's a chance to give the house a proper clean and that makes me feel good, too."

The Creaneys are one of a number of householders around the region who have been getting into the Christmas spirit with inflatable snowmen, illuminated Santas and reindeers on hand to help residents create the perfect Christmas display.

### Covered

Grandfather-of-seven George Hall transformed his Sedgley home into a winter wonderland with an inflatable snowman in the garden. The display, which takes more than a week to put up, also has a flashing candle, Christmas trees and Santas on the roof.

Cascading icicle lights hanging from the roof complete the lights display which has been collected over the years.

The 66-year-old, of Swallowfields Road, said: "I'm still a big kid at heart and Christmas is a magical time of the year."

Wendy and Chris Fletcher have covered the front of their home on Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, with an array of lights and other decorations including a giant snow dome.

It took them from 9.30 in the morning until 8 at night to get everything out and up but say it was well worth the effort.

Mrs Fletcher, a mother-of-five said: "This year

we decided to add some extra lights as we thought we wanted to brighten things up a bit and we have already decided to do even more next year when we plan to have a light show. Usually we take all the children out to have a look at other people's houses but this year it is nice that a few people have stopped to look at ours."

Another house where the lights are shining brightly belongs to Neil Robbins home in Douglas Road, Smethwick.

He has a giant bear as well as a reindeer and train which both light up in the garden with many more decorations on the front and the side of the house itself.

A father from Oldbury has dressed his house for Christmas with 17 different sets of lights, a polar bear and a Christmas train.

Neil Robbins, has spent the last two weeks making his home on Douglas Road the talk of the town, by covering it in lights and decorations for Christmas.

He started decorating his house this way around eight years ago when his three children were small. The decorations include reindeer, a polar bear, snowmen and a train.

The 30-year-old said: "I am just a big kid at heart and absolutely love it. Nobody else round here really decorates their homes, but I just love the reaction I get from passersby. The other day a family came and sat outside the house in their car for around half an hour, just to look at the lights."

The mini bus driver also likes to decorate his bus during the festive period.

He said: "I do some driving for The Orchard School, and the children just love to see the bus all Christmassy, it really makes people smile."



Wendy Fletcher with Daniel, Chris, Ben, Nathan and Jamie Fletcher in Wolverhampton

Inside: your best of Yuletide television and a page of puzzles

# CHRISTMAS

## Wildlife takes on an entirely new dimension



David Attenborough goes 3D on Sky

**SIR David Attenborough's new 3D series on the Galapagos Islands has been confirmed as part of Sky's Christmas and New Year schedules.**

The multi-award-winning natural history broadcaster's fourth collaboration with Sky will use pioneering 3D techniques and technology to explore the unique environments and species of the Galapagos in a three part series.

"It's only now that the latest developments in camera technology have given us the possibility of filming the full range of wildlife in 3D, and the first place I wanted to put that to the test was the Galapagos," said Attenborough.

"I mean, lizards that swim, swim down to the bottom of the seabed and graze seaweed, has to be really an extraordinary thing."

Other treats on Sky over the festive season include Daniel Radcliffe and Mad Men's Jon Hamm's critically acclaimed *A Young Doctor's Notebook*, which will air on Sky Arts, and a new series of Little Crackers comedy shorts, with Darren Boyd, Rebecca Front and Joanna Lumley among the comics signed up.

There will be Christmas specials for Sky1 and Sky Living sitcoms including *Spy*, *Trollied* and *Mount Pleasant*, while Sky Atlantic will air HBO's Emmy-nominated drama *Hemingway & Gellhorn*, which has been a huge hit on the opposite side of the Atlantic.

The Sky Movies Christmas Channel is also back in business, with *The Muppets* and *The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn* among the new



The unusual suspects... Bad Santas

films on show.

**Bad Santas** is a two-part documentary following a group of unemployed men with difficult pasts as they try to make a fresh start, at Santa School.

The Channel Four show follows a group of unemployed men in their 50's as they are taken through their paces at the UK's most successful Santa School - but only the best will make it into the grottos in time for Christmas.

In true Christmas spirit, James Lovell, Managing Director of Ministry of Fun, is offering a unique opportunity to this carefully selected group of men, each who have had a difficult past and are looking to make a fresh start.

James wants to give them the chance to regain their confidence and find employment.

Whilst working with the MOF, the men must attend Santa School and pass a number of challenges from learning how to wear a Santa costume with confidence, how to perfect the art of a jolly 'ho ho ho', learn the most popular toys for Christmas and most importantly, how to deal with those tricky questions from children.



Joseph Morgan plays Ben Hur in the new drama

A TV miniseries version of sword-and-sandals classic *Ben Hur* is a cornerstone of Channel Five's festive programme.

This take on Lewis Wallace's 1880 novel is a Canadian/German co-production shot in Morocco, but littered with familiar faces.

Marc Warren is a surly zealot, Ben Cross plays an emperor, and there are cameos from Ray Winstone and Hugh Bonneville. Joseph Morgan plays Judah Ben Hur while Stephen Campbell Moore shudders as his Roman nemesis Messala.



Doctor Who hooks up with his new assistant Jenna-Louise Coleman, in the Christmas Day special



Miranda Hart returns for two festive specials, and Katy Brand is among the men in her firing line



Fabrice Muamba, Bobby Ball, Katy Brand and Jonathan JB' Gill are among the Strictly stars

# A festive feast

**CHRISTMAS Day looks set to be the battle of the period dramas, as ITV and BBC both unleash festive one-off episodes of their biggest hitters, *Downton Abbey* and *Call The Midwife*.**

One-off specials have become very much the flavour of the Christmas season in recent years, and 2012 is no exception.

Doctor Who unveils his new assistant, Strictly Come Dancing returns with a mix of fascinating newbies and former champions, and the Royle Family's 2011 episode - which never made it onto our screens - finally arrives 12 months late.

And fans of enchanting animation *The Snowman* will be walking in the air when they hear the news that a new version of the much loved tale is on its way, to mark the 30th anniversary of the original.

Here's a dozen good reasons why you won't want to stray too far from the TV set over the Christmas season:

**DOCTOR WHO (BBC1)** This year's time-travelling special, called *The Snowmen*, officially introduces Jenna-Louise Coleman as The Doctor's new companion Clara.

It also features Richard E Grant as the villainous Doctor Simeon and familiar characters Vastra, Strax and Jenny, who are there to support The Doctor.

Writer and executive producer Steven Moffat teased details of the new episode in a chat for the BBC Doctor Who blog.

He said: "The Doctor at Christmas is one of my favourite things - but this year it's different. He's lost Amy and Rory to the Weeping Angels, and he's not in a good place: in fact, he's Scrooge.

"He's withdrawn from the world and no longer cares what happens to it. So when all of humanity hangs in the balance, can anyone persuade a tired and heartbroken Doctor that it's time to return to the good fight? Enter Jenna-Louise Coleman..."

Doctor Who star Matt Smith added: "For this year's Christmas Special we have the wonderfully villainous Richard E Grant as Doctor Simeon. As well as lizards, Victorian assassins and deranged warriors from the future all return to convince The Doctor that he should board the Tardis again and save the world."

"Add to that Jenna-Louise Coleman and so begins the Christmas Special 2012. It does the sort of wonderful Doctor Who-ey Christmas things - you know, snow, aliens, good will, good cheer, someone trying to take over the world."

**DOWNTON ABBEY (ITV1)** The Crawleys go off on their holidays in the two-hour *Downton Abbey* special, leaving the servants to fend for themselves.

Lord Grantham and his family are heading north to the Scottish Highlands to join the Dowager Countess's great niece Lady Rose and her parents at Duneagle Castle.

The headstrong Lady Rose (Lily James) was sent home in the last episode of series three after a dalliance with a married man.

Initially, a warm welcome awaits, but the tensions between the family and their hosts soon become clear.

We're promised "salacious scandals, clandestine courtships and heartbreaks of seasons past" will all come to a head during the feature-length episode.

And while it may well snow (it is Scotland, after all) don't expect Christmas decorations or another stilted presentation as the seasonal special is, in fact, set in September.

But what of those left back at Downton? Will Lord Grantham return to find they've had a massive party and trashed the place with late-night parties and raves?

Stoic head butler Carson is of course determined to prevent this, but with the excitement of the approaching Christmas fair, it's possible some of the staff could be tempted to push their luck.

Speaking of luck, it seems romance could be in the air for chirpy cook Mrs Patmore, while personal servant O'Brien finds a kindred spirit below stairs in the form of Susan's lady's maid Wilkins.

**CALL THE MIDWIFE (BBC1)** The Beeb has produced a



75-minute episode of its hit 1950s drama which those who have seen a sneak preview say serves up festive cheer in spades.

It's 1957, Poplar's cobbled streets have a dusting of snow and Nonnatus House is busier than ever.

Chummy (Miranda Hart) is now married, but her husband PC Noakes hardly gets a look in as she begins choreographing a Nativity play for the local cub scouts that soon snowballs into an epic.

Nurse Jenny (Jessica Raine), meanwhile, finds herself being stalked to each and every birth by a batty old crone called Mrs Jenkins - well known on the local birthing scene but generally dismissed as a bit of a nutcase.

But with Christmas being the season of goodwill, Nurse Jenny finds it in her heart to offer help rather than hindrance, and it is her investigation into Mrs Jenkins and her past that forms the backbone of the episode's plot.

Daily Telegraph reviewer Benji Wilson says: "If all of that sounds a little mawkish, it comes, as did the first series of *Call the Midwife*, with just enough social realism to sugar the pill - or more accurately pill the sugar. In amongst the warm-hearted gurning, *Call the Midwife* is not afraid to address the bigger issues like abortion, social housing, the respondent wonder of the NHS, or the merits or otherwise of close communities."

**THE SNOWMAN AND THE SNOWDOG (CH4)** The centrepiece of Channel Four's Christmas season is the long-awaited return of *The Snowman* in a brand new sequel to the much-loved original, which first screened 30 years ago.

Adapted for the screen from Raymond Briggs' book in

1982, the Oscar-nominated film - wordless, apart from its evocative theme, *Walking in the Air* - has been screened by Channel 4 every year since it was first transmitted and has enchanted generations of children.

On the 30th anniversary of the original film, Briggs has given his blessing to a brand-new sequel and the magic is about to begin all over again, this time with a new set of friends.

When a young boy and his mother move house, the boy discovers a secret box hidden under the floorboards of his bedroom. In the box, he finds a hat, scarf, some lumps of coal and a shrivelled tangerine - it's a snowman-making kit! Later that day it starts to snow and the boy builds a Snowman and, with the little spare snow leftover, a Snowdog. That night, at the stroke of midnight, the Snowman and Snowdog magically come to life.

The boy awakes and joins them on an amazing adventure, flying over London and onwards to the North Pole, where Snowmen and Snowwomen from around the world are gathering for 'The Annual Downhill Race.'

Competing with an assortment of colourful characters, the boy and the Snowdog narrowly win the race and are rewarded with a prize from Father Christmas. Dawn is breaking so the boy stuffs the present unopened into his pocket for the journey back. When he arrives home, the boy must leave his new friends outside and return to bed - but first, a wonderful surprise awaits him ...

**THE GIRL (BBC2)** Sienna Miller may not be most famous for being Jude Law's on-off girlfriend for much longer. The British model-turned-actress takes centre

## CHRISTMAS



Gordon Ramsay will be doing his live Christmas Day cookalong again, with some familiar faced guests



Sienna Miller as Tippi Hedren in *The Girl*, based on the woman who was Alfred Hitchcock's obsession



*The Snowman and the Snowdog*, a new version of the enchanting tale to mark its special anniversary

# So much for the season of goodwill

THERE'S one thing you can guarantee this Christmas...in true roast turkey fashion, some of our most popular soap stars are about to find themselves well and truly stuffed!

In the world of continuing drama, no-one seems to tell the writers that it is supposed to be the season of goodwill. Death, violence, betrayal, financial and romantic heartache are all being served up with the usual festive trimmings in Coronation Street, EastEnders and Emmerdale. Here's a snapshot of what's in store over the coming weeks:



*What's it all about, Alfie? He's about to find out*

## EASTENDERS

Something's got Alfie Moon looking glum... and we can all guess what it is. Details of wife Kat's secret affair, and her web of lies and betrayal, begin to unravel. Alfie's world is torn apart as the truth unfolds. But could he find happiness by finally getting together with Roxy (Rita Symons). Meanwhile, with her feelings bottled up for too long, Lauren goes back to her old ways. Out of control, she lets out a huge secret which has major consequences. It's been widely reported that the death of Derek Branning will be one of the big EastEnders Christmas storylines, but bosses are keeping the details about his death tightly under wraps. What is known, though, is that Dot Cotton is set to return in time for this year's explosive episode, having filmed scenes with grand-daughter Abi.



*The Crawleys head north in Downton Abbey's Christmas special, filmed at Inveraray Castle in Scotland*



*Patience is a virtue... The Royle Family Christmas Special is finally on its way after the false start last year*



*Leanne has one too many on her hen night*

## CORONATION STREET

Is a Christmas wedding on the cards in Weatherfield? You bet it is - but who is tying the knot?

Publicity manager Alison Sinclair tweeted a teaser picture showing the hem of a white embroidered dress, and one scarlet shoe. "A touch of the Wizard of Oz comes to Corrie," she said.

There are several candidates; Leanne and Nick, Carla and Peter, Kirsty and Tyrone... even Julie and Brian (those Judy Garland-style ruby slippers would be right up her retro fashion street). Leanne struggles with her feelings as she gets ready to tie the knot with Nick, and her wicked half sister Eva plots to split them up.

It's set to be an interesting Christmas for mixed-up lovers Marcus and Maria too, when they are paid a visit by his parents Ron and Janet Dent.



*Cameron panics, and heads into the woods*

## EMMERDALE

Emmerdale is set to kill off another character this Christmas as murderer Cameron Murray strikes again, adding another guilty secret to his conscience.

Cameron killed Carl King but remains a free man as his on-off lover Chas Dingle (Lucy Pargeter) is awaiting trial for murder, wrongly believing she delivered the fatal blow. He confesses his guilt to one of the village's residents then realises his honesty was a mistake, and takes his confidante captive before later ending their life, waking next morning in blind panic, and heading to the woods hoping to bury the evidence.

So who's Cameron's victim? Jimmy King, who is planning to bankroll Chas' defence? Other names in the frame from fans are Gennie Walker, Lisa Dingle, or even Cameron's former girlfriend Debbie Dingle.



The BBC is bringing back its popular drama, *Call The Midwife*, for a one-off festive special full of cheer

stage in this eerie movie, documenting film maker Alfred Hitchcock's obsession with the leading lady of his cult motion picture *The Birds*, Tippi Hedren.

The trailer, which can be found online, shows Hitchcock, played by The Hunger Games actor Toby Jones, and Hedren (Miller) having dinner, as the director refers to his new project as 'my most ambitious movie ever.'

Sienna's character Tippi, who became a Hollywood icon after she was cast as the leading lady in the 1963 thriller, tells him: "I'll make you so proud of me. I'll be putty in your hands."

However, as the action cuts to a toast with two Martinis, Hitchcock says: "To Alfred and Tippi", and a look of fear flashes across her face.

The director famously fixated on the actress who became one of his archetypal 'Hitchcock blondes', and Hedren later said it made her life a misery.

**STRICTLY COME DANCING CHRISTMAS SPECIAL (BBC1)** Miracle footballer Fabrice Muamba is to crown his comeback from the dead by transferring his nifty footwork to the dancefloor.

The former Bolton Wanderers midfielder - who suffered a heart attack during an FA Cup tie last season - is one of six celebrities competing in the one-off Christmas edition.

The line-up is completed by Jonathan 'JB' Gill from boy band JLS, daredevil Blue Peter presenter Helen Skelton, veteran actress Sheila Hancock, comic Bobby Ball and comedienne Katy Brand.

And the Christmas edition will include show dances from an array of contestants who have dazzled viewers in years

gone by, including Kelly Brook, Rachel Stevens, and the show's first ever champion, newsreader Natasha Kaplinsky. Also taking to the dancefloor will be last year's runner up Chelsee Healey, 2009 winner Chris Hollins and track star Colin Jackson.

Muamba revealed he turned down ITV's *Dancing On Ice*, but said: "I'd do Strictly Come Dancing. I love my salsa, so I'll be well up for that."

**GORDON RAMSAY'S CHRISTMAS COOKALONG - LIVE (CH4)** It's Christmas morning. The kids are screaming, grandma's on her third glass of sherry and you've got mountains of uncooked ingredients and no idea what to do with them. You need help. Live from his very own kitchen, Gordon Ramsay will again guide you through Christmas dinner step-by-step, sharing his favourite tips.

If you're being brave, going commando and doing it all at the last minute, Gordon will help get you through it, with viewers invited to get involved through phone calls and tweets. The chef will also be joined by a collection of famous guests who made 2012 go with a bang.

**THE ROYLE FAMILY (BBC1)** Postponed from last Christmas due to script delays, this year's Yuletide antics see Dave (Craig Cash) planning to pitch an idea to the Dragons' Den tycoons, while Jim (Ricky Tomlinson) is pinning all his hopes of winning big on a Christmas scratch card. Meanwhile, a new neighbour has moved onto the street, and apparently, the fact that she has an "impressive cleavage" doesn't go unnoticed by widower neighbour Joe (Peter Martin) who's on the lookout for romance. He places an advert in the *Lonely Hearts* column, 'Vacant Lady

Wanted'. Who could resist?

**MIRANDA (BBC1)** Radio Times TV editor Alison Graham says: "It's been a dizzy few years for Miranda Hart. Her cheerfully silly BBC2 sitcom won a big following - so big that Miranda now treads a well established path to glory by moving to BBC1." There are two festive episodes in the can. In one of them, we return to the joke shop where Take That star and X Factor judge Gary Barlow finds himself in the firing line as a potential new love interest for the socially clumsy heroine.

**PANTO! (ITV1)** Comedian John Bishop stars as a cheeky DJ who makes his stage debut in a local performance of pantomime Dick Whittington. The eclectic cast also includes Sheridan Smith, most recently seen in acclaimed drama *Mrs Biggs*, plus *Waterloo Road* star Mark Benton, and 1980s chart star Chesney 'I Am The One And Only' Hawkes.

**THE UNSEEN FRANKIE HOWARD (CH4)** Titter ye not... this 90-minute documentary includes never before seen footage of the late comedian, who led a colourful and tormented private life. It speaks to many who were closest to the Up Pompeii star, and who knew him best.

**THE JK ROWLING STORY - MAGIC BEYOND WORDS (FIVE)** An interesting concept, this... a made-for-TV movie looking at JK Rowling's rise to become one of the most influential writers, from her humble beginnings as an imaginative young girl and awkward teenager to the loss of her mother and the genesis of the Harry Potter phenomenon.

CHRISTMAS

# Festive Puzzles Extra

## Word Wise

The following words may sound familiar, but do you know what each means?

### 1. PECCABLE

- A. Liable to sin
- B. Small farming area
- C. Smart

### 4. SPIRACLE

- A. Breathing-hole
- B. Tap-root
- C. Long-winded preacher

### 2. RESIANT

- A. Pliable
- B. Resident
- C. That which is left

### 3. SEGREANT

- A. With raised wings
- B. One who divides
- C. To set apart

### 5. THALASSIAN

- A. Nuptial chamber
- B. Relating to comedy
- C. Marine

### 6. TRANSENNA

- A. A screen enclosing a shrine
- B. The back of a boat
- C. One who translates

## Four W's

**1 WHO** in 1898 became the first man to sail the world alone?

**WHAT** is world champion boxer Antonio Tarver nicknamed? **WHERE** was Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron born? **WHEN** did the Ireland rugby union centre Mike Gibson make his international debut?

**2 WHO** wrote the poetry The Talking Horse and the Sad Girl and the Village Under the Sea?

**WHAT** is the profession of Steve Bell and Posy Simmonds? **WHERE** is George Simenon's novel Tropic Moon set? **WHEN** did Tanganyika become independent?

**3 WHO** accompanied James Cracknell in the 2005 Atlantic Rowing Race?

**WHAT** is the nationality of snooker player Quinten Hann? **WHERE** in Africa is the capital city of Kigali? **WHEN** did Scottish Claymores win the World Bowl in American Football?

**4 WHO** wrote the play The Night Of The Iguana?

**WHAT** trophy is awarded to European Footballer of the Year? **WHERE** was the 2008 Rugby League World Cup held? **WHEN** did Jeremy Spencer leave the group Fleetwood Mac?

**5 WHO** choreographed dance show Edward Scissorhands?

**WHAT** is the capital of Chechnya? **WHERE** in Africa are the cities of Tororo and Soroti? **WHEN** was the tennis player Tomas Berdych born?

## Who am I?

### one

An actress, I was born in Iowa in 1921. My last acting role was as a stand-in for Barbara Bel Geddes in Dallas. I had my own sitcom in the 1960s and my films included It's A Wonderful Life and From Here To Eternity, for which I won an Oscar.

### two

A newsreader, I was born in Bridgend in 1961. I played an announcer in a recent series of Doctor Who. I regularly present the 10 O'Clock News on BBC1 and the Five O'Clock News on BBC News 24.

### three

A singer, I was born in Liverpool in 1983. I was the fiancee of TV presenter Dave Berry. I was part of the original line-up of Atomic Kitten and went on to be a member of the Sugababes.

### four

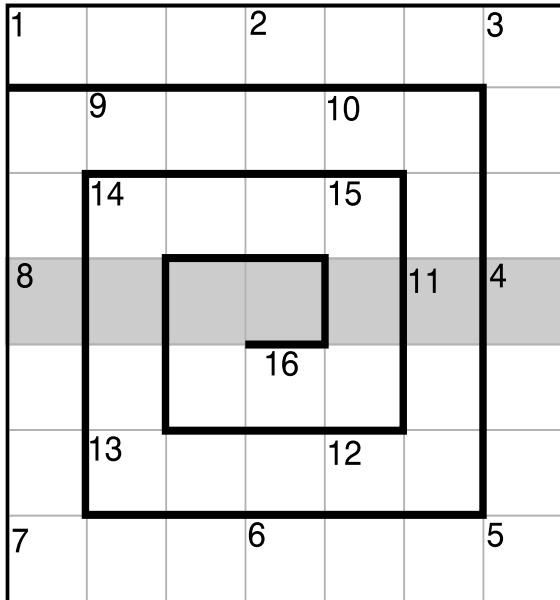
An author, I was born in Nuneaton in 1819. My real name was Mary Anne Evans, and I caused scandal in Victorian society for having a relationship with a married man. My well-known novels include Middlemarch and The Mill On The Floss.

### five

A cricketer, I was born in Manchester in 1974. I was awarded the OBE in 2005 and I released the book Calling The Shots. I captained the England cricket team from 2003 to 2008.

## Word Spirals

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word. If you have correctly filled in the grid there should be a seven-letter key word reading across from 8.



### WORDSPIRAL 1

1. Forehead 2. Clean with water 3. Suspend 4. Soft steady light 5. Marries 6. Avoid deliberately 7. Close to 8. Fury 9. Compass point 10. Urban area 11. Tailed amphibian 12. Melt 13. Unwelcome plant 14. Fall in drops 15. Jetty 16. Drive on this.

**Key word clue:** Place in England

### WORDSPIRAL 2

1. Hire cab 2. Notion 3. Partially open 4. American ostrich 5. Elderly 6. Deduct money from 7. Osculate 8. Prophet 9. Fairground entertainment 10. Gaelic 11. Goes wrong 12. Miss out 13. Chessman 14. Religious sisters 15. Halt, pull up 16. Entreaty.

**Key word clue:** Garment

### WORDSPIRAL 3

1. First man 2. Mashed potatoes, informally 3. Comb this 4. Castle in chess 5. Brown seaweed 6. Heap 7. Consumes food 8. Brogue, say 9. Heroic 10. Traffic marker 11. Heinous 12. Luxuriant 13. Exaggerated publicity 14. Facility 15. Resound 16. Cooker.

**Key word clue:** Surname

### WORDSPIRAL 4

1. Unable to hear 2. Beat with a whip 3. Horrific, bloodthirsty 4. Spun thread 5. Require 6. Aquatic bird 7. A tangle 8. Stumble 9. Chrysalis 10. Bushy hairstyle 11. Lubricates 12. Counterfoil 13. Violent robbery 14. Swimming competition 15. Adjoin 16. Plough.

**Key word clue:** Furniture item

### WORDSPIRAL 5

1. Top cards 2. Hotpot 3. Sagacious 4. Revise 5. Carpet nail 6. Leg part 7. Egress 8. End part 9. Fibber 10. Corrosion 11. Sepulchre 12. Plant storage organ 13. Make beer 14. Compass point 15. Petty quarrel 16. A bench.

**Key word clue:** Insect

## Remember When

The following events all occurred in a year in living memory. Can you guess the year?

**1** Prince Harry was born  
2 Carl Lewis won four Olympic gold medals  
3 Indira Gandhi was assassinated  
4 Dr David Jenkins was consecrated as Bishop of Durham



**2** 1 The Pope visited the Holy Land  
2 Ian Fleming died  
3 Spain won the European Football Championships  
4 Ian Smith became PM of South Rhodesia



**3** 1 The international organisation Cominform was set up  
2 Stanley Baldwin died  
3 Princess Elizabeth married  
4 Fresh meat ration was a shilling's worth weekly



**4** 1 David Steel was elected Liberal Party Leader  
2 Lester Piggott won the Derby for a seventh time  
3 America celebrated its bicentenary  
4 Carry On favourite Sid James died



**5** 1 James Cagney died  
2 Jacques Chirac became prime minister of France  
3 Australia became legally independent  
4 Mike Tyson became the youngest heavyweight boxing champion at 20



**6** 1 CND campaigners marched from London  
2 Michael Jackson was born  
3 Maltese prime minister Don Mintoff resigned  
4 The first heart pacemaker was implanted



## Sudoku

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4. 1976. 5. 1958. 6. 1986. **WHO** am I? 7. 1961. **Domina Reed**. 8. **Huw Edwards**. 9. **Heidi Range**. 10. **George Eliot**. 11. **Michael Vaughan**.  
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# What's On! Halesowen

## June is a pearl in the Oyster

June Tabor & Oysterband  
Town Hall, Birmingham

IT has been a pretty amazing year for grand dame of folk June Tabor & Oysterband, both weighed down with their trophies from the 2012 Radio2 Folk Awards and their album Ragged Kingdom earning acclaim all over the place.

Oysterband were first on stage led by lead singer John Jones. They laid down the intro for June to quietly walk on stage before moving into Mississippi Summer accompanied by the fiddle and squeezebox.

They then slipped easily into anti-war song Fountains Flowing from their award-winning album. The band then pulled out a cover version of the Velvet Underground's All Tomorrow's Parties.

June then made one of her many exits for John to take over with the traditional Molly Bond. One of the highlights was the a Capella (When I Was No But) Sweet Sixteen with its magnificent harmonies.

Danny Farragher

### Blues night

A BLUES Brothers tribute act will perform at a pub near Halesowen on Saturday.

The show takes place at the Knights Quest pub, in Blackheath High Street, with entrance costing £3.

# The pantomime season is here again... oh yes it is!

THE FESTIVE season is almost upon us and that means pantomime time and a feast of family entertainment at the region's theatres.



Brian Conley and Lesley Joseph star in the Birmingham Hippodrome panto

The second city's big pantomime is Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates (December 15-January 29) with jungle escapee Brian Conley making his sixth panto appearance at the Hippodrome, this time with Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph.

#### Beanstalk

The Grand in Wolverhampton reunites Coronation Street pair Sherrie Hewson and Ken Morley in Jack and the Beanstalk (until January 20), plus Keith Harris with Orville the Duck and Cuddles.

Potteries' favourite Jonathan Wilkes is Buttons in Cinderella at The Regent in Stoke (Dec 13-Jan 4).

Other children's shows include Birmingham Rep's Wind in the Willows (until Jan 19) at the Crescent Theatre and James and the Giant Peach (until February 2) at the Old Rep, both Birmingham.

The Royal Shakespeare Company present The Mouse and His Child in Stratford until January 12.

## Strictly stars for NIA next month



West End star Denise Van Outen

WITH just a couple of weeks until the Strictly Come Dancing grand final on TV, the celebrities appearing at the NIA in Birmingham as part of the live show have been announced.

West End star Denise Van Outen and former England cricketer Phil Tufnell



GB Olympic gymnast Louis Smith

are the final celebrities added to the tour calling at Birmingham for the weekend of January 18-20.

#### Judges

They join Tracey Beaker star Dani Harmer, TV presenter Fern Britton,



Popular actress Lisa Riley

actress Lisa Riley, Olympian Louis Smith and former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan. Kate Thornhill hosts and the judges will be Craig Revel Horwood, Len Goodman and Bruno Tonioli.

Tickets from £35 to £65 plus fees.

## The Docs enjoying 25th year

The Saw Doctors  
Wulfrun Hall  
Wolverhampton

IT may be a quarter of a century since the Galway Gang hit the music scene but The Saw Doctors show no signs of slowing down or taking things easy if the energy and enthusiasm they brought to Wolves is anything to go by.

Davy Carton, Leo Moran and newest recruit Lindsey Cleary came on to a roaring welcome, opening with World of Good and from then on there was no let up.

They gave the crowd what they wanted and they lapped up numbers such as Tommy K, Will It Never Stop Raining and To Win Just Once.

With I'll Be On My Way, I Use to Love Her and Bless Me Father the fans soaked up every note. In the encore the crowd went mental on hearing the opening notes of Joyce Country Ceili Band.

Danny Farragher

## Big band sound

THE Steve King Big Band returns to Halesowen Members Club, Hagley Road, on Sunday.

It will feature Christmas favourites in big band sound with vocals from American Lynn Dawes. The show starts at 12.30pm and admission is £7 on the door.

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Saturday 15th

#### THE BLUES BROTHERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 16th

#### SUNDAY NIGHT IS KARAOKE PARTY NIGHT !!!

Monday 17th

#### SHANES KARAOKE NIGHT

Tuesday 18th

#### PREDATORS KARAOKE

Wednesday 19th

#### A NIGHT WITH CHAD WHITE

Thursday 20th

#### STARMAKERS KARAOKE

Friday 21st

#### KYLIE MINOGUE TRIBUTE

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#### DAYS TOURS COMING UP

| DECEMBER                           | AD     | OVER 60s |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 14th WADESDON MANOR XMAS SCENES    | £35.00 | £34.00   |
| 15th CHATSWORTH HOUSE FOR XMAS     | £37.50 | £35.00   |
| 16th LONDON FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING | £26.00 | £25.00   |
| 22nd HYDE PARK'S WINTER WONDERLAND | £26.00 | £25.00   |

| JANUARY 2013                        | AD     | OVER 60s |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 3rd HARRODS JANUARY SALES           | £20.00 | £20.00   |
| 31st NEWARK ANTIQUES FAIR (inc adm) | £31.00 | £29.50   |

| FEBRUARY 2013                        | AD     | OVER 60s |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1st MYSTERY DAY OUT & 2 COURSE LUNCH | £30.00 | £29.00   |
| 14th SHAKESPEARE GLOBE THEATRE TOUR  | £46.00 | £45.00   |
| 16th THE MAKING OF HARRY POTTER TOUR | £55.00 | £52.50   |
| 18th BUCKLANDS & MERCEDES BENZ WORLD | £35.00 | £34.00   |
| 20th LLANDUDNO SEASIDE & SEA AIR     | £25.00 | £24.00   |
| 21st HISTORY & SCIENCE MUSEUM LONDON | £26.00 | £25.00   |
| 23rd A VIEW FROM THE SHARD - LONDON  | £49.50 | £47.50   |

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# What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 15.12.12

### CHOICE



Sarah Harding

### BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.30** Gymnastics: World Cup. **4.00** Fine Score. **5.25** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.45** A Question of Sport: Sports Personality 2012 Special. **6.30** Strictly Come Dancing. (R) Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the semi-final, in which the five remaining couples battle it out on the ballroom floor for a coveted place in next week's final.

**8.15 Merlin.** Mordred is torn between loyalty and love, until he realises he must shape Camelot's destiny – and as the drums of war beat louder, Merlin feels trapped by the cruel circle of fate.

**9.00 The National Lottery.** Saturday Night Draws. OJ Borg presents as the balls are set rolling to decide the all-important numbers. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws and Lotto Plus 5 results.

**9.15 Casualty.** Tensions rise once again between Tom and Domini as they argue over the treatment of a baby with severe hypothermia, while Dylan finds out he has never been told from Sam.

**10.05 BBC News.** Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Newcastle United v Manchester City and Manchester United v Sunderland; National Lottery Update.

**11.45 The Football League Show.** **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

### BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **12.00** Animal Park. (R) **1.00** Coast. (R) **1.20** Film: Holiday Affair (1949) **4.30** Film: The War Lover. (1962) **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R) **6.30** The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best Christmas. Si King and Dave Myers find out what women are cooking for their families over the festive period, including roast goose and salted cured lamb steamed over birch twigs. (R) **7.30** Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story. Victoria Wood pays tribute to the timeless comedy of Dad's Army, introducing classic moments from the long-running series. Contributors include Ian Lavender and Clive Dunn. (R) **8.20** Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men face the might of a rival platoon in a battle to prove that they are the Army. Lowe and John Le Mesurier play the superannuated soldiers. (R) **9.20** Clive Dunn: A Tribute. Family, colleagues and friends pay tribute to much-loved actor Clive Dunn, who died in November and was best known for his role as Lance-Corporal Dunn in classic sitcom Dad's Army. **10.00 Jools Holland: My Life in Music.** The musician and later host talks about his life and career, with contributions by Tom Jones, Hugh Laurie, Stephen Fry, Michael Ball, Bob Geldof and Vic Reeves. **11.00** Later with Jools Holland and Friends. A compilation of Jools' performances with his guests. **12.00** Film: Savage Grace. (2007) **1.30** Film: Priceless. (2006) **3.10** Close.

### ITV1

**6.10** CITV: Bebar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Camanis. (R) **7.00** Camanis. (R) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.20** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** Murder She Wrote. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **1.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.30** Midsummer Murders. (R) **4.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.15** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.55** Film: Back to the Future Part II. (1989) **7.40** Take Me Out Celebrity Christmas Special. Keith Lemon, Joe Swash and Matt Johnson try to impress a line-up of 30 single women from the UK's entertainment and win a date to the Isle of Farns. Last in the series. **9.00** **10 Years of Girls Aloud.** The story of the girl group, from their formation on Popstars: The Rivals in 2002 to the release of their greatest hits album this year, featuring interviews with all five members. **10.20** ITV News; Weather. **10.35** Michael Bublé: Home for Christmas. (R) **11.50** Film: Captivity. (2007) Horror, with Elisha Cuthbert. **1.15** The Story. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

### CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Grid. **7.00** Teenage Superhumans. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Rockcorps 2012. **9.10** T4: The Hobbit: T4 Movie Special. **9.45** T4: Will & Grace. (R) **10.15** T4: Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.45** T4: Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.40** T4: Fraser. (R) **12.10** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.40** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.10** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **6.00** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. Yoga teacher Dervil Fleming hosts the fourth dinner party from Co Kerry. **6.30** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. Music teacher Sean Tracy hosts the final dinner party. **6.55** Channel 4 News. **7.25** 4Thought.tv. Religious beliefs and the law. **7.30** Heston's Fantastical Food. Heston Blumenthal makes super-size versions of lunchtime favourites. (R) **8.30** Stephen Fry: Gadget Man. The actor delves into the world of technology. (R) **9.00** Film: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse. (2010) Premiere. Bella Swan's supernatural love triangle threatens to ignite a conflict between vampires and werewolves. Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. **11.30** Film: Remember Me. (2010) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Robert Pattinson. **1.30** Film: The Escapist. (2008) **3.10** Hollyoaks. **5.20** Countdown.

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers. Super Samurai. **10.25** ThunderCats. **11.10** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **11.20** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.55** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55** Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railways. (R) **1.55** Film: A Grandpa for Christmas. (2007) **2.00** Come Dine with Me: West Coast. **3.35** Film: Meet the Santas. (2005) Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. **5.20** News Weekend. **5.25** Film: Mrs Miracle. (2009) A talented housekeeper helps a widowed father of twin boys to turn his life around and rediscover his love of music. Family drama, starring Doris Roberts and James Van Der Beek. **7.20** Film: An Old Fashioned Christmas. (2010) Premiere. A wealthy woman visits an Irish earl in the hope that he can help her grand-daughter's career. Period drama sequel, with Jacqueline Bisset and Catherine Steadman. **9.00** Greatest Christmas TV Moments. Countdown of 50 festive TV highlights, featuring Gavin and Stacey, Morecambe and Wise, Only Fools and Horses, Wallace and Gromit, Doctor Who, Top of the Pops and The Royle Family. (R) **11.55** Film: Inside Hollywood. Magazine show, with location reports, news and views from behind the scenes. **12.00** SuperCasino. Live interactive game. **1.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **2.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **3.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **5.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **6.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **7.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **8.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **9.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **10.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **11.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **12.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **1.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **2.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **3.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **5.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **6.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **7.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **8.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **9.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **10.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **11.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **12.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **1.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **2.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **3.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. 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## SUNDAY'S TV 16.12.12

## CHOICE



Sue Barker

## Sports Personality of the Year 2012

## BBC1, 7.30pm

The big question in 2012 isn't who will win the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award, but who won't. It's been such an extraordinary period for British sport that there are some massive names who won't even make it to the shortlist. After becoming the first Brit to win a Grand Slam event for decades, not to mention his Olympic medals in the men's singles and mixed doubles, you might expect Andy Murray to be a shoe-in. But he'll face stiff opposition from current favourite, cyclist Bradley Wiggins and Mo Farah.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets David Dimbleby. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.05** Regional Programme. **3.05** Call the Midwife. (R) **4.05** Lifeline. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.55** Nigel Slater's 12 Best Christmas. (R) **5.25** BBC News: Regional News, Weather. **5.50** Countryfile.

**6.50 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman announce which two couples will be hanging up their dancing shoes, determining the line-up for next week's final. Katherine Jenkins also performs.

**7.00 Sports Personality of the Year 2012.** Sue Barker, Gary Lineker and Clare Balding present this year's ceremony from the ExCeL in London, where the successor to Mark Cavendish will be crowned from a shortlist of 12.

**10.05 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Colin Murray reviews the day's Premier League action, live from the Hawthorns, West Bromwich Albion v West Ham United at the Hawthorns.

**11.30 The Graham Norton Show.** With Martin Freeman, Dawn French, Emma Thompson, Lee Mack and Girls Aloud.

**12.15 Film:** Three Fugitives. (1989) **1.50** Weatherby. **1.55** Sign Zone. Film 2012. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.25** Great British Food Revival. (R) **4.25** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00 Cbeebies.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30** Nigella's Christmas Kitchen. (R) **12.00** Film: Five Finger Flea. (1936) **1.50** Film: Shall We Dance? (1937) **3.35** Animal Park. (R) **4.05** Coast. (R) **5.00** Flog It!

**6.00 Cuba with Simon Reeve.** The broadcaster heads to the Caribbean to look at the effects of the past two years of economic liberalisation, exploring the impact it has had on Cubans and their society. (R)

**7.00 The Great Spanish Crash.** Paul Mason travels to Spain to investigate how its once-thriving economy has become the latest casualty of the Eurozone crisis and left the country in need of a bailout.

**8.00 Fawlty Towers.** Basil decides to enhance the hotel's reputation with an exclusive night of gourmet cuisine. Unfortunately, his new chef is distracted by hapless waiter Manuel. (R)

**8.30 Film:** Calendar Girls. (2003) **9.00** Film: A Year in the Life of a Yorkshire branch of the Carnegie Institute cause controversy when they pose nude for a charity calendar. Fact-based comedy, starring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters.

**10.15 QI XL.** Extended edition. **11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks.** Liza Tarbuck hosts, with guests Rita Ora, Labrinth, David Walliams and Jason Manford. (R)

**11.30 Film:** Surviving Christmas. (2004) Family comedy, starring Ben Affleck.

**12.55 Film:** Body Heat. (1981) **2.45** BBC News. **4.25** The Super League Show. **5.25** Close.

## ITV1

**6.00 CITV:** Engie Benji. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Babou. (R) **6.25** Babar and the Adventures of Babou. (R) **6.45** My Little Pony: The Great Crystal Quest. (R) **7.00** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.15** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Big Time Rush. **8.30** First Board Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.30** Dinner Date. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Film: Castle On The Hill: Love and Death. (R) **2.20** The X Factor Results. (R) **4.20** Regional Programme.

**7.00 Happy Birthday E.T.** Celebrating the 30th anniversary of E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, this documentary explores the making of Steven Spielberg's classic film, with contributions by some of the cast.

**8.00 The Making of a Lady.** A penniless woman marries a lord for money rather than love, but her new life of wealth brings envy and danger. Period drama, starring Lydia Wilson.

**9.45 ITV News:** Weather. **10.00 Film:** I Am Legend. (2007) Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith.

**11.50 Pensioners Behind Bars.** Following number of over-60s doing time for a criminal offence. (R)

**12.40 The Store:** ITV News Headlines. **2.40** Motorsport UK. **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05 Sali Mali.** (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** Survival of the Fittest. **8.00** Grace. (R) **8.25** Fraser. (R) **8.55** Fresh. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **11.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** The Simpsons. (R) **1.15** The Simpsons. (R) **1.45** Deal or No Deal. **2.45** Film: Hocus Pocus. (1993) **4.40** Film: Deck the Halls. (2006)

**6.20 Channel 4 News.** **6.50** The Price of a Shot. Education minister Elizabeth Truss MP talks about free schools.

**6.55 4thought.tv.** Members of the public reflect on religious issues.

**7.00 Come Dine with Me Christmas Special.** Christmas hitmakers Maizie Williams of Boney M and Jon Pertwee are joined by soul singer VV Brown and DJ Toby Anstis for a week of festive dinner parties.

**8.00 River Cottage: Three Go Mad at Christmas.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is joined by Stephen Mangan, Mark Heap and Kathy Burke for a festive cookery extravaganza on the River Cottage farm.

**9.00 Homeland.** Carrie begins to suspect there is a mole in the CIA.

**10.00 Peep Show.** Jeremy moves in with Super Hans.

**10.35 Film:** I Love You Phillip Morris. (2009) Premiere. Romantic comedy drama, with Philip Morris and Ewan McGregor.

**12.25** 8 Out of 10 Cats: Best Bits. **12.55** American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig.** **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie. (R) **6.45** Bert and Ernie. (R) **6.50** The N Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Animal Antics. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.30** Jellyman. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **11.15** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.45** Film: Mr St Nick. (2002) **1.30** Film: Battle of the Bulge. (R) **3.15** Film: Mr. & Mrs. Wilson for Christmas. (2006) **5.00** Film: The Da Vinci Code. (2006)

**7.55 5 News Weekend.** **8.00** Film: Click. (2006) A man gets his hands on a remote control that allows him to fast-forward through the dull parts of his life. Comedy, starring Adam Sandler.

**10.00 Film:** Zack and Miri Make a Porno. (2005) Two friends plan to shoot a porno film, but find having sex for the cameras makes them rethink their feelings for each other. Comedy, with Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks.

**11.55 World's Craziest Police Pursuits 2.** (R)

**12.55 Sun Casino.** **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.45** A Rough Guide to Cities. (R) **5.05** Han's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **11.40** Slither (2006)

Listings supplied by Press Association

## DIGITAL

## BBC Three

**7.00 Merlin** **7.50 Film:** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005) **10.00 Him & Her** **10.30 Family Guy** **11.15 American Dad!**

## BBC Four

**7.00** The Roasts of Christmas Past **8.00** A Very English Winter: The Unthanks **9.00** Chas & Dave: Last Orders **10.00** Storyville: The Other Irish Travellers **11.00** Film: The Hunter (2010)

## ITV2

**3.35** Take Me Out Celebrity Christmas Special **4.50** Take Me Out: The Gossip Celebrity Christmas Special **5.35 Film:** The Mummy Returns. (2001) **8.00** The Xtra Factor: Winner's Story 2012 **9.00 Film:** Gladiator (2000)

## ITV3

**3.40** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.55** Lewis **7.55 Film:** Houseitter (1991) **10.00** A Is for Acid. The story of killer John George Haigh, starring Martin Clunes.

## ITV4

**2.05 Film:** Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971) **4.00 Film:** Weekend at Bernie's (1989) **6.00 Film:** What's the Clue? (1988) **8.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **10.00 Film:** Enter the Dragon (1973)

## E4

**3.40** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Just My Luck (2006) **10.00 Misfits** **11.00 The Inbetweeners Film4** **2.45** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **4.35** The Remains of the Day (1993) **7.15 Jumper** (2008) A man with the ability to teleport is hunted by a secret religious society determined to wipe out all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen. **9.00 Die Hard** (1988) **11.40 Slither** (2006)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry, ITV1, 10.35pm A fireman asks a male colleague to pretend to marry him to get round a hitch with his late wife's life insurance policy. Their plan is thrown off course when an overzealous city official begins to doubt the pair's relationship is genuine, and decides to conduct an investigation. Comedy, starring Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Steve Buscemi, Jessica Biel, Dan Aykroyd, Ying Rhames, Nicholas Turturro and Richard Chamberlain. (2007)

#### TUESDAY

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, BBC1, 11.35pm A successful surgeon leads a carefree life in 1960s Czechoslovakia, and pursues complicated romances with two women – a Bohemian artist and a bookish small-town woman. Their lives are thrown into chaos when the country faces invasion by Society forces. Drama based on Milan Kundera's novel, starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Juliette Binoche, Lena Olin, Derek de Lint, Erland Josephson, Pavel Landovský, Stellan Skarsgård, Pascale Kalensky. (1988)

#### WEDNESDAY

The Santa Suit, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A greedy executive hires men dressed as Santa Claus to sell his company's merchandise, but the real Father Christmas takes exception to being exploited and casts a spell that turns the businessman into one of the impersonators. As he plays the part of Santa, he acquires some much-needed festive spirit. Comedy, starring Kevin Sorbo and Jodie Dowdall. (2010)



Last Chance Harvey, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

#### THURSDAY

Last Chance Harvey, BBC2, 9pm

A miserable New Yorker travels to London for his estranged daughter's wedding, but is devastated to find his ex-wife's new husband is to give the bride away instead of him. While trying to return home, he bumps into a woman feeling equally unfulfilled in her life, and their fledgling romance inspires them both to face up to their problems. Romantic drama, with Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Eileen Atkins, Kathy Baker, Liane Balaban, James Brolin, Richard Schiff, Wendy Mae Brown. (2008)

#### FRIDAY

Mistletoe Over Manhattan, Channel 5, 3.10pm

Santa Claus' wife goes to New York to perform a Christmas miracle and give her husband fresh inspiration. She befriends a cop who is in the midst of a divorce and offers to become a nanny to his children. She then discovers he still loves his wife, and tries to find a way to bring them back together. Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk. (2011)



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### Pick of the Week

## Our sporting heroes get their just rewards

Whenever the show is broadcast, fans know that Christmas is just around the corner – but who will be celebrating the festive season with a shiny new trophy on the mantelpiece as well as a turkey in the oven?

The big question this year, of course, is who will win the main prize, but who won?

It's been such an extraordinary year for sport that some will be some massive names who won't even make it to the shortlist when, in other years, they might have been expected to walk away with the trophy.

For a start, Olympic gold medallists Charlotte Dujardin, Greg Rutherford, Victoria Pendleton, Laura Trott and Alistair Brownlee, and Europe's Ryde Cup hero Ian Poulter, have not made the final 12.

After becoming the first Brit to win a Grand Slam event for decades, not to mention his Olympic medals in the men's singles and mixed doubles, you might expect Andy Murray to be a shoo-in.

But then there's Bradley Wiggins to consider. He's not only our first-ever

winner of the Tour de France, he also won gold at the Games and is the current favourite to triumph again here.

Athletes Mo Farah and Jessica Ennis are also in the running (no pun intended), while Ben Ainslie's achievement in becoming the Olympics' most decorated sailor is recognised.

Also making the shortlist are rower Katherine Grainger, boxer Nicola Adams, Wiggins' cycling team mate Chris Hoy, golfer Rory McIlroy and Paralympians David Weir, Ellie Simmonds and Sarah Storey.

At least last year's accusations of sexism, which came after no women made the shortlist, can't be levelled at the Beeb this time.

Not only are there lots of females in the running for the main prize, how the nominees are decided has been changed too.

This time, a panel comprised of various BBC executives and presenters, sports writers and former nominees (this year's are Steve Redgrave, Tanni Grey-Thompson and Denise Lewis) and Sue Campbell, chair of UK Sport, has

been put together to come up with 12 worthy names.

The panel will also choose the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for the Team of the Year, Overseas Personality of the Year and Coach of the Year awards. Other awards on the night will again be Young Sports Personality of the Year, Sports Hero, which will continue to be decided by the existing specialist panel system and the Lifetime Achievement and Helen Rollason Awards, which will be decided by the Board of BBC Sport.

Barbara Slater, director BBC sport, says: "This year's sports personality of the year will be a celebration of what has been a truly unique year for sport in the UK. We are incredibly proud to be hosting the sporting grand finale for such a remarkable year."

Sue Barker, Gary Lineker and Clare Balding (whose own star rose thanks to her outstanding presenting skills during the BBC's coverage of the Olympics and Channel 4's hosting of the Paralympics) are the hosts.

And no matter what happens, next year's event is going to have a lot to live up to.



Sports Personality of the Year 2012, Sunday, BBC1, 7.30pm

### Best of the Rest

#### Monday

Britain's Secret Terror Squad: Panorama  
BBC1, 9pm

It seems that these days, there's nary a day goes by without some thrilling drama or other focusing on the cloak-and-dagger lives of people within the shady world of counter-terrorism. But just how grounded in reality are they? The answer is, generally, not very – yet 40 years ago, a unit existed which is far stranger than fiction, and ten times as shocking. For two years in the early 1970s, the British Army ran an undercover squad that operated outside the law, with orders to shoot terrorists on sight. They believe it saved lives, but in this documentary, reporter John Ware uncovers evidence that the unit may also have killed innocent civilians.

#### Bad Santas

Channel 4, 9pm

If you thought that all it took to be a Santa was a red suit and a beard, this two-part documentary should make you think again. It follows a group of unemployed men in their fifties, who are looking to make a fresh start by enrolling in one of the UK's most successful Santa schools (yes, apparently there is more than one.) Under the watchful eye of James Lovell, Managing Director of the intriguingly named Ministry of Fun, the men will have to pass a series of challenges, but how many of the Santa students will graduate to a grotto of their own?

#### Tuesday

Inside Guinness World Records  
ITV1, 8pm

It's 40 years since the much-missed Roy Castle

first presented Record Breakers, the BBC TV kids' show which captured the imaginations of millions. Whether it was the sight of him and a few dozen extras tap-dancing around the courtyard to BBC TV centre while Norris McWhirter looked on, or his reports on world records, for two decades Roy piqued the interest of many, and also helped boost sales of The Guinness Book of Records. Now the conclusion of this documentary provides a close access perspective on what drives the extraordinary and colourful characters that hold World Records. They include Wilma Conner, the oldest competitive female bodybuilder, and Tom Luckey, the oldest aerobatic wing walker.

Wednesday  
The Christmas No 1 Story  
BBC2, 9pm

In Britain, predicting what will be at the top of the charts on December 25 has become a festive tradition with there with trimming the tree, singing carols and moaning about how early the supermarkets start hawking their seasonal wares. But just why has that number one slot become so important, and what do the chart-toppers of Christmas past tell us about the tastes of the Great British record-buying public? That's what this documentary aims to find out, as it traces the story of the Christmas number one, from Harry Belafonte, to last year's single by the Military Wives, taking in everyone from the Beatles to Benny Hill along the way.

#### The Twins Who Share a Body

Channel 4, 10pm

Indian twins Sohna and Mohna are two of the world's most incredible children – but their story isn't an easy one to hear. They're celebrating their ninth birthday, however that in itself is an amazing achievement, as the siblings share just one body. Their condition (known as dicephalic parapagus conjoined twins) affects only one in a million, and so this documentary questions just how they manage to live a fulfilled life when they are two conscious beings in one body. Meanwhile, doctors desperately try to find out whether the twins will always be just one body, or if it would be possible for them to be separated and one life sacrificed.

Thursday  
Young Apprentice  
BBC1, 8pm

It's been eight weeks since the latest batch of budding business brains first set foot in Alan Sugar's legendary boardroom, and every challenge they have undertaken has been building up to this point. The hopefuls have been dropping like flies, and after last week's double-firing, which followed a festival-based task in which the two teams of three were challenged to flog products at

Text Santa, Friday, ITV1, 8pm

open-air world music event WOMAD, there are now just four of the original 12 contestants remaining. Let's hope they have their CVs in order, because there's everything – including a £25,000 investment in their business – to play for in this final episode.

#### Friday

Text Santa

ITV1, 8pm

The BBC is proud of Children in Need, but ITV isn't shoddy in the telethon stakes either. Okay, so the broadcaster hasn't had one that's run for as long as the BBC has, but in Text Santa, it's found a format that could match it. Last year it made its debut, raising more than £4million for six charities. This year, it's hoped that total will be surpassed, with Age UK, Anthony Nolan, Carers UK, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Together for Short Lives and Whizz-Kidz all set to benefit. Ant & Dec, Phillip Schofield, Holly Willoughby, Christine Bleakley and Paddy McGuinness will all be on hand to introduce star guests and sketches featuring famous faces and TV shows.

#### QI

BBC2, 10pm

One of Danny Baker's greatest strengths, aside from being a fine DJ, is his ability to pep up panel games such as Shooting Stars, Have I Got News For You, and this show. Being a font of all knowledge, the 55-year-old Londoner could even give Stephen Fry a run for his money in the trivia stakes, but how will he fare in this festive edition of the engaging quiz? Now there's a chance to find out as he joins Sarah Millican, Phillip Jupitus and regular panellist Alan Davies.

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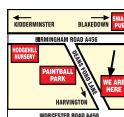
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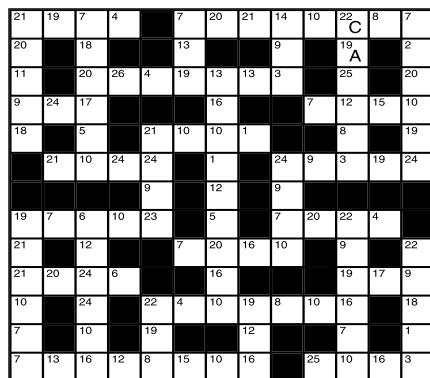
## What's On!

## Brain Gym

No.199

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| C | I | H | F | V | L | W | B | E | X  | T  | Q  | G  | D  | R  | U  | K  | Z  | N  | Y  | P  | O  | M  | J  | T  | A  |

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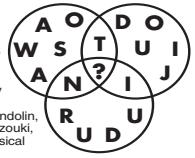


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## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:  
 The letter represented by the question mark is O. Mandolin, trombone, bouzouki, all types of musical instrument.

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## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

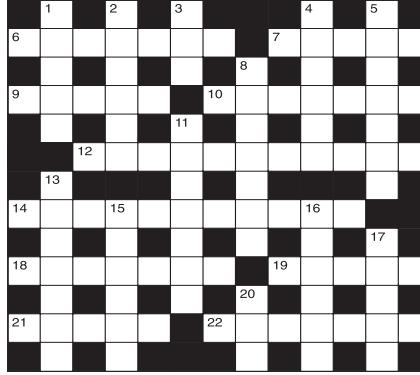
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

6. Sea mail going astray causes uneasiness (7)
7. Possibly loves to work out crossword clues (5)
9. Agencies that inform me before help is returned (5)
10. Possibly train as a mechanic (7)
12. Hostility to dogs, for example? (3,8)
14. A procession of empty protest (6,5)
18. Is the parson shortly back on form? (7)
19. An all-round measure (5)
21. It gets wetter as it dries (5)
22. Have a flying start? (4,3)

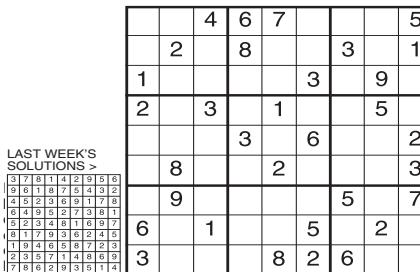
## Down

1. It goes on record (5)
2. Figure a girl is showing ill-will (6)
3. Finally refuse custom (3)
4. If run down they will pick you up (6)
5. A flighty individual (7)
8. He's at liberty to be a privileged citizen (7)
11. Continue to flirt? (5,2)
13. Seasonal blazer (4-3)
15. Inquire inside to obtain an engine part (6)
16. The number increases in emergencies (6)
17. People in office? (5)
20. Don't allow a section to be played (3)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Clothes-mad; 7 Ozone; 8 Swallow; 10 Cremated; 11 Evil; 13 Shrimp; 15 Scarab; 17 Nick; 18 Research; 21 Several; 22 Mason; 23 Archimedes; Down: 1 Close; 2 Open arms; 3 Haste; 4 Star; 5 All over; 6 Torch songs; 9 Well behind; 12 Screamed; 14 Recover; 16 Bedlam; 19 Rests; 20 Arch. QUICK - Across: 1 Out-of-doors; 7 Alder; 8 Mastiff; 10 Farewell; 11 Envy; 13 Throng; 15 Redden; 17 Hold; 18 Catacomb; 21 Diploma; 22 Arena; 23 Department; Down: 1 Order; 2 Throwing; 3 Female; 4 Oust; 5 Reigned; 6 Far-fetched; 9 Flying-boat; 12 Separate; 14 Relapse; 16 Vacant; 19 Overt; 20 Solo.

## Sudoku



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 |   |   |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 |   |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 |

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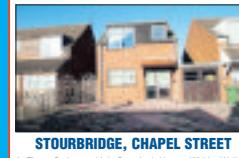
£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, HARDEN COURT

Situated In Popular Residential Area Of Halesowen, With Easy Access To Buses To The Town, Is This Part Furnished First Floor Apartment Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom With A Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage Parking, Communal Gardens

£495 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, CHAPEL STREET

A Three Bedroom Link Detached House Within Walking Distance To Leye Shops, Buses And Train Station, Comprising Of: Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms And Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden With Patio, Blocked Paved Driveway For Two Cars. Available Immediately.

£495 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Been Freshly Refurbished And Within A 5 Minutes Drive Of Brierley Hill Town Centre And Few Minutes More From Merry Hill Shopping Centre. Is This Unfurnished End Terraced House, Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, 1 With Fitted Wardrobes, House Bathroom With Shower, Nice Sized Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, On Road Parking, No Garage.

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEAUMONT ROAD

A lovely unfurnished 2 bed mid terrace home briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen With Appliances, Downstairs Family Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms With Free Standing Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, On Road Parking.

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE

A furnished flat above shop, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Large Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking

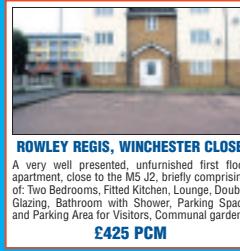
£440 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

This lovely unfurnished ground floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprising of: One Bedroom, Spacious Lounge With Patio Doors Onto The Balcony, Fitted Kitchen With Small Fridge And Washing Machine, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom With Shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Garden.

£425 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Bathroom With Shower, Parking Space, And A Private Parking Area For Visitors, Communal Gardens.

£425 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

A spacious part furnished first floor apartment on the ever popular Homer Hill estate, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom With Shower, Unfurnished. Available Immediately. Highly Recommended.

£400 PCM

## Top guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge



David Domoney with the Prince of Wales who is mentoring horticultural students as they create gardens

## Encouraging a sustainable approach to the back yard

As students at UK horticultural colleges create sustainable gardens to showcase for the Prince of Wales, their mentor TV gardener David Domoney offers tips to create sustainable features of your own

**OLDER** gardeners could pick up some tips from a new generation of young horticulturists who have grown up with the eco-friendly, sustainability mentality.

So says TV gardener David Domoney, who is mentoring students from six UK horticultural colleges as they create gardens with a sustainability theme as part of the Ideal Young Gardener of the Year competition, in association with the Prince's Foundation.

Young people are becoming much more aware of the importance of sustainable gardening, thanks to programmes such as Countryfile and other horticultural shows, he says.

"Television has greatly influenced kids to an acceptability that wildlife is very important."

"There are a lot of little quirky designs in their gardens that really work."

Natural stone and brick have been used to create mini pizza ovens, bulbs utilised to create 100 days of colour, while other students are using a combination of planting to create fluid movements in between timber and stone.

Herbs will be used for flowers and foliage. Ornamental plants which are also edible are being planted in blocks to create an attractive view.

"Kids today are working more with handicraft. Dry stone walling is immensely popular. When I was at college in the 1980s, things were very different."

### Statuettes

"Today, there's floristry and blacksmith work, as people hammer out their own statuettes and embellishments, and make woven wicker fencing. Land-based skills which have become popular at Chelsea have been adopted."

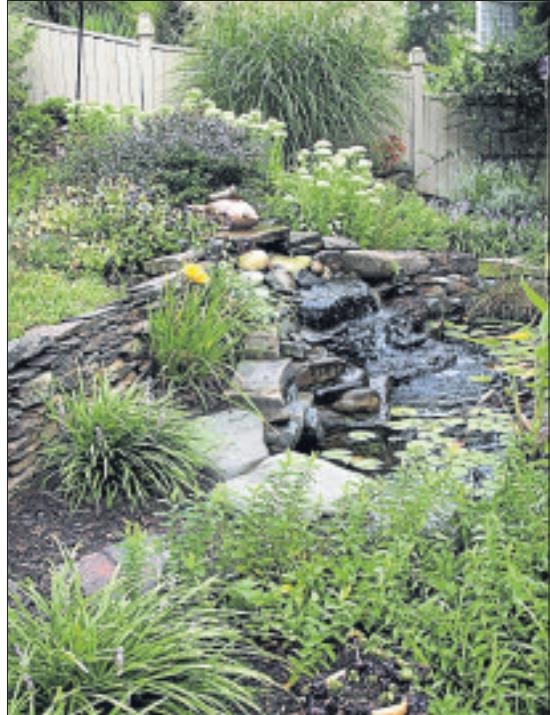
Youngsters have a different attitude to sustainability than previous generations, he agrees.

"It's become such an important part of the teaching, there's an affinity to it, whereas other generations had to relearn it."

"In the past decade we've seen a huge change. Who would have thought 10 years ago we'd have been separating our rubbish inside our kitchens? But kids of today are used to it. It's part of their natural psyche."

So how can amateur gardeners make their own plots sustainable?

Domoney says: "There's a huge amount of confusion about what is sustainable and what is natural, whether everything has to be indigenous species and aspects of chemicals, peat and handicraft."



Dry stone walling is prospering with an upsurge in landscape projects

"But for the general public who have their own gardens and like the feeling of sustainability, there are a few steps they can take to try to encourage that style of thinking."

Attracting as much wildlife as possible into the garden is the first step any amateur gardener should take towards sustainability as part of an equal balance, he notes.

"That means attracting everything from wild birds - creating not only a feeding and water station year-round, putting up bird boxes and roosting pouches - to insects that visit the garden, not just bees. Make little bee stations using cut bamboo canes tied together, or leave a section of the garden uncut."

As green space becomes more scarce, sustainable gardens will become more valuable in the future, he predicts.

"The garden is becoming much more influential for young families and new home owners."

"A garden is becoming an investment, a fashion statement, rather than just somewhere to put the bikes."

"The student gardens can be viewed at the Ideal Home Show London, which runs from March 15-April 1, 2013 at London's Earls Court. For details on how to view the gardens, visit [www.idealhomeshow.co.uk](http://www.idealhomeshow.co.uk)

# MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS

# CHRONICLE

# MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

# Improved airflow benefits Auris

LOOK underneath the new Toyota Auris and you'll discover shallow fins on several of the body panels. Hardly something an owner is likely ever to see, but they're there for a purpose.

They help smooth the airflow beneath the car, and that makes it easier to push through the air. Which saves precious petrol and makes the car less expensive to run.

It shows an impressive attention to detail and augurs well for a car that arrives in a part of the market already rich in quality, with names like Golf and Focus to contend with.

Toyota knows the Auris will battle it out in exalted company, where a merely sensible car is no longer good enough. Toyota spent decades building those, but now think a new model "should bring a smile to the face of an owner".

If Toyota succeeds there are going to be a whole lot of smiling Europeans; the plant near Derby will soon be turning out a Euro Auris every 66 seconds. Which ought to make the Toyota accountants smile, at the very least.

By Ian Donaldson

Sales of 15,000 cars are anticipated across Europe next year, helped by a estate joining the current five-door hatch in July. There is the usual Toyota choice of petrol and diesel engines and a petrol/electric hybrid, the latter expected to take four in every 10 sales.

Prices in the UK start at £14,495 for an Active version and top out with the posh and well equipped Auris Excel Hybrid at £21,745. As well as being cheaper in some versions than before, this new Auris is lower, sleeker and more economical.

## Improving

But simply improving on what went before is not good enough these days, with some of the best cars for the real world available around the same price.

A stand out car has got to "be a car for the heart". Those are Toyota's words and first impressions, while hardly setting the old ticker racing, are favourable. There's a new found elegance and carefully chiselled look about the newcomer, with a bold new face

that will become the look of Toyotas of the future.

Inside, especially on the top Excel model tested here, there's real attempt at adding class, with smartly stitched leather on the dash and an emphasis on quality that stretches to ensuring everything you can read, from dashboard to audio controls on the steering wheel uses the same typeface. Attention to detail, again.

Changes to the suspension across the range are aimed at softening the ride without compromising cornering power, while moving the heavy Hybrid's battery to beneath the rear seats means extra room in the boot.

It helps push the car's weight closer to the road, as does lowering the roof line and dropping the seats; good for road holding but less good for the creaky hipped buyers that you might expect to take an important slice of Auris ownership.

Owners of all ages won't complain at a car that managed 50mpg on a series of Portuguese motorways (sometimes, ahem, at rather more than the UK speed limit) and demanding hill roads. Yes, a good diesel (the Auris offers a diesel but there wasn't one to try) would do as well, or better, but would



Shallow fins beneath the body panels are designed to ease the airflow, which makes for a more economic drive

not drive the same. The hybrid Auris produces a combined 134bhp from its petrol and electric power sources, enough for 112mph flat out and a 10.9 second dash to 62mph. There's no road tax to pay and it makes a tax efficient company car. Toyota expects to sell five million petrol/electric cars worldwide in 2013 and plans to introduce 21 new hybrids

A petrol only Auris tried later was a more enthusiastic drive.

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Model shown Mokka Tech Line 1.6i 16v VVT (115PS) FWD Start/Stop £15,995 with Adaptive Forward Lighting £790 and Tri-coat premium pearlescent paint £995. Total OTR cost £17,780. Offer available on orders or registrations from 2 October 2012 to 17 December 2012. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Visit [www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty](http://www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty)

# Four Main Vauxhall Dealers Join Forces To Offer Motorists Affordable Vehicle Winter Care.

Dudley Motor Company, T Wall Garages, Stourbridge Motor House and Halesowen Motor House have joined together to provide low cost winter safety care to motorists throughout the West Midlands. Rob Gilbert, general manager of Dudley Motor Company says, "We recognise the importance of offering drivers affordable solutions to make sure their vehicles are safe and reliable over the winter months. This is of course especially relevant given the increased instances of unexpected and extreme weather conditions experienced over recent years".

The four sites are offering an Anti-



freeze check for just £1.99 plus a free tin of de-icer. The anti-freeze level is something that often gets forgotten about, but really is so important. Anti-freeze is vital to the coolant system of your car and in modern engines it prevents extremes in temperature, both hot and cold. It also prevents electrolysis which causes pitting and corrosion. Over time the concentration of the anti-freeze diminishes and it is vital that it is replenished otherwise the engine may sustain irreversible damage. With this check for just £1.99 you may save yourself a small fortune in the cost of engine repairs.

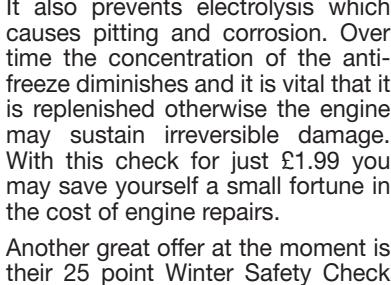
Another great offer at the moment is their 25 point Winter Safety Check

for only £35 which inspects your vehicle's brakes, tyres, exhaust, steering, wiper blades and much more. They also check your engine oil, brake fluid and radiator coolant, topping up where necessary, up to half a litre. Plus they are currently offering a free Winter Care Pack worth 20 RRP with every Winter Safety Check!

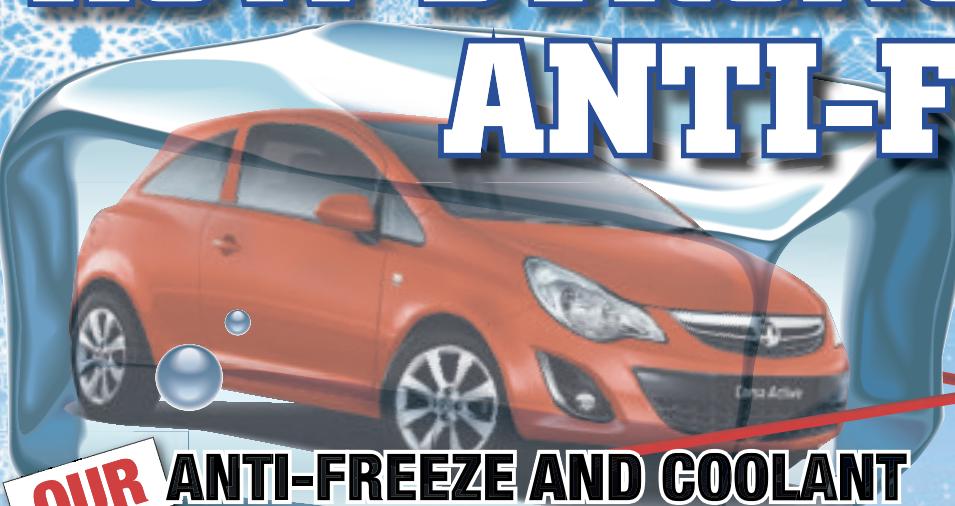
These main Vauxhall dealers are part of a family-run business which has been caring for the motoring needs of people in the West Midlands for almost 60 years. They won the Vauxhall Chairman's Award for excellence in 2011 for customer service and have continued to exceed the expectations of their customers ever since. As well as



superb New and Used car sales facilities they have also built up Service departments that are second to none. Their workshops contain all the latest diagnostic equipment and specialist tools and their technicians are fully trained, so customers can be reassured their vehicles are in the safest hands. They provide quality servicing and MOTs, using high quality parts and oils, for all makes and models of car and at very affordable prices. All the sites are also really happy to help with any concerns or questions you have about your vehicle, so always feel free to pop in and see them. We wish you safe and happy motoring throughout the season.



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### T Wall Garages

High Street, Pensnett  
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twall.co.uk





For modern used BMWs a retro-fit DAB system can be fixed to the back of the existing unit

## BMW going digital with radio systems in all cars

**BMW is to begin equipping every single model in its range with DAB digital radio.**

From January, every BMW – from the three-door 114i to the 760Li long-wheelbase luxury saloon – will receive DAB radio and will therefore be unaffected when analogue radio signals are eventually turned off.

The announcement follows news earlier this year that owners of used modern BMWs can purchase a retro-fit

DAB radio kit. According to the company, no owner of a modern BMW will have to go without radio in the medium term.

The aftermarket interface is the first fully integrated system of its kind available for BMWs in the UK.

### Dashboard

The AutoDAB system, produced by Connects2, fits behind the dashboard, plugging into the existing radio.

Fitting seamlessly behind the exist-

ing head unit, installation is claimed to take on average of one hour with no additional box or dangling wires. A small aerial runs from the back of the unit and fixes to the top left corner of the windscreen.

DAB offers superior sound quality to analogue radio, with greater choice and normally a stronger, more consistent signal. Currently around 94 per cent of the UK receives DAB radio to a greater or lesser extent.

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| VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 SRI XP 58 Reg, 5-door, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 39k, FSH   | £4995                   |
| VW GOLF 2.0 SDI S 04 Reg, 5-door, Grey, Air Con, 59k, FSH   | £4995                   |
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| VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 CDTI EXCLUSIV 08 Reg, 5-door, Air Con, Alloys, DAB Radio, 34k   | £4995                   |
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Advertisement Feature

## Local Vauxhall Dealer Celebrates Sales Success

Dudley Motor Company are celebrating their latest unprecedented sales success at their recent Vauxhall VIP BIG Event, when during the weekend of 16th to 19th November, the company sold 60 vehicles of which a staggering 48 were NEW CARS!

These figures ensured that Dudley Motor Company were one of THE Top Selling Vauxhall Dealerships in the country for this nationwide event. This is backed up by their consistent record of achievement, in 2011 this company were winners of the Vauxhall Chairman's Award for Excellence whilst they have a string of Regional Excellence awards lining their walls that stretches back every year to 2006.

General Manager Rob Gilbert commented that success is a testament to the high standards of customer care that are required by Vauxhall of their dealerships, which consistently result



in the company achieving high scores on customer surveys. This family run business of nearly 60 years is justifiably proud of these excellent standards in customer satisfaction, where personal service counts.

Rob Gilbert himself has worked for Vauxhall in Dudley for over 29 years whilst amongst this family run firms other loyal staff, Motability specialist, Tony Lister has over 50 years Vauxhall experience and Trevor Hollies in sales has over 34 years Vauxhall experience!

Dudley Motor Company now have over 50 part exchanges arriving within the next few weeks and we will be offering many of our cars at around cost price or below, so we can reduce our stocks down to a more manageable level.



During December and January, we will therefore be offering many one owner, low mileage part exchanges that will be priced TO GO! All cars will still benefit from the backing of this quality dealership for peace of mind. Supermarket Prices with Guaranteed Quality!! Rob Gilbert and his staff would like to wish all Dudley Motor Company friends and customers, a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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**public & legal notices**

**SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL  
(SANDWELL BOROUGH, WAITING AND LOADING  
RESTRICTIONS)**

**(TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER NO.2) 2013**

The Borough Council of Sandwell, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 45 and 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers and after consulting with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, proposes to make an Order which will have the effect of revoking The Borough Council of Sandwell (Sandwell Borough, Waiting and Loading Restrictions) (Traffic Regulation Order No.1) 2012, and introducing the following amendments:-

1. To introduce a No Waiting At Any Time restriction in part(s) of Reservoir Road, Matty Road, Brookfield Road on the traffic island at the junction of Londondry Lane and Manor Road, Sandwith, Asiza Isaacs Close, St Davids Court, and Pound Road, Sandwith, Sidway Street, Station Street, and High Cleeve, Cradley Heath, Park Avenue and High Cleeve, Brook Road, Rowley Regis, East Avenue and Barncroft Road, Tividale, Hockley Heath, Tame Road, Hurst Lane, Harper Grove, Oliva Drive, Keeling Street, Bilton Road, Bartlett Close, Foundry Street, Birmingham New Road, New Birmingham Road, Orchard Street, and Walford Street, Tipton, Leekbrook Road North, Leekbrook Road, Corporation Street and Wharfside Street, Wednesbury, Bromford Lane, Margaret Street, Leacroft Grove, Coles Lane, Vowles Road, Bank Street, Pennyhill Lane and Water Lane, West Bromwich, Ravenhurst Drive, Great Barr, and Poppy Drive and Woodruff Way, Walsall.
2. To increase the length of No Waiting At Any Time in part(s) of Harborne Road, Tal Bank Road, Langley Road, Westmead Drive, New Meeting Street, Queen Street, Taylors Lane, Canal Street, Simpson Street, Oldbury, Gaitskell Way and Watery Lane, Smethwick, High Street, Forge Lane, Meredith Street, St Lukes Street and Station Street, Cradley Heath, Cakemore Road, Causeway, Curral Road and Church Road, Rowley Regis, Regent Road, Park Avenue, Tividale, John Lane, Lower Birch Lane, Tividale, Victoria Way, Farmgate, Wyldebrook Road, Lower Church Lane, Newhall Street and Tividale Road, Tipton, Tasker Street, Anne Close, Devereux Road, Old Meeting Street, Orwell Drive and Whittington Close, West Bromwich, and Calverton Grove, Great Barr.
3. To increase the length of No Waiting Mon - Fri 8am to 4pm on The Oval, Oldbury and also the No Waiting Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm in Sherwood Road, Smethwick, and a new section of No Waiting Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm in Tasker Street, West Bromwich.
4. To Introduce No Loading Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm in part(s) of John's Lane, Dudley Port, Tipton.
5. To introduce a Red Route, No Stopping at Any Time restriction in parts of Burnt Tree, Tipton.
6. Extend existing School Entrance Marking in Pound Road, Oldbury.
7. Remove Shared use from the Residents Parking in Summerfield Avenue, West Bromwich and make it Residents Only at Any Time.
8. To Introduce a Loading Only Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm bay outside 633 on the east side of Bearwood Road, Smethwick, and a Loading Only At Any Time bay at the northern end of Canal Street, Oldbury.

A copy of the Draft Order, the Order to be revoked, a Statement Of Reasons for making the Order and maps showing the roads affected may be examined at the offices of the Area Director of Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE between the hours of 8am - 5.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8am - 5pm on Fridays. Plans are also available to view on the council's website.

Any person wishing to make an objection or representation to the proposed Order must do so in writing stating the grounds of their objections in writing to Mr Irfan Choudry, Service Manager - Highways, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE or by e-mail to highways@sandwell.gov.uk by no later than 10th January 2013.

Dated this 13th day of December 2012

S Handley  
Area Director Street Scene  
Sandwell Council House  
Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

**CONSTANCE MARY WINWOOD (Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased person, Peter Birmingham B44 988 Arridge Drive, Perry Birmingham B44 9AG, who died on 11th April 2012, and requiring payment of £1,000.00 to the executors thereon in relation to the Estate of the deceased, the same to be paid within two months from the date of this publication, any claim or demand must be distributed, having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Seconds' away-day blues are still there

**Wolverhampton 1  
Old Halesoniens 0**

With the firsts and thirds not in action, the seconds led the way for Old Halesoniens men's hockey section.

Their away-day blues continued with defeat at bottom of the table Wolverhampton.

Captain Mark Rigby could not fault effort but they must be clinical in attack.

Hales pressed Wolverhampton into their own half, having large amounts of possession and getting into good areas only to be let down by lack of composure.

Wolverhampton got the only goal as a forward rounded keeper Steve Charlton. Hales felt there was a Wolverhampton foot offence in the build-up, but it stood.

In the second half, Hales' Jake Brooke was yellow-carded for a tackle in which he felt he took most of the ball. It gave Wolverhampton a chance to compose themselves, and Hales had to repeat several short corners.

With Brooke back Hales regained the initiative but were hit by poor finishing.

**Old Halesoniens 2 Stourport 0**

The fourths went into their game with mid-table Stourport knowing they were guaranteed second place over the break.

However, they wanted to stretch an unbeaten run to 10 games and end the first half of the season on a high.

Victory, plus results elsewhere, left them top.

Old Hales' Josh Thomas saw a flicked effort saved but Mike Link tapped in for a third goal in four games.

Stourport offered little up front and Old Hales got a second midway through the second half. Phil Carter squared a penalty corner to Matt Harrald who beat the goalkeeper at the near post.

**Old Halesoniens 2 Warwick 1**

The fifths continued their improvement to beat Warwick at Great Park.

The visitors started stronger and went ahead via a deflected nudge from the top of the D but Old Hales pushed them back and equalised via a Graham Jenkins short corner deflection. They pushed for a second-half winner and got it when another deflection from an Andy Hewitt shot was claimed by Jenkins.

Warwick found the net in the final moments only to have the strike disallowed for a foul on the Hales keeper.

Other Results: Stourport Ladies fourths 2 Old Halesoniens Ladies firsts 0, Old Halesoniens Ladies seconds 0 Worcester Ladies fourths 7, Wednesday 1 Old Halesoniens Badgers 1.

# Convincing victory takes women second

**Ladies League**

**Halas Ladies 5 Atherton Rangers 1**

HALAS moved to second place in the Birmingham County Women's Premier Division with a convincing win against strong opposition.

They led 2-0 at half-time, courtesy of Jodie Jones and Tash Berry.

Atherton got one back after the break, but Halas added two from Tracey Haycock and Berry's seventh goal in three games.

**Girls League**

**Withymoor Colts U15 Girls 2**

**Halas Hawks U15 Girls 4**

Withymoor added two from Amy Blakemore scored for Halas

after 20 minutes but Withymoor equalised. Kayleigh Pomfret then chipped home before the break.

Withymoor netted a second-half free-kick but Blakemore hit two. Abbie Read did well in defence.

**Halas Hawks U17 Girls 4**

**Withymoor Colts U17 Girls 1**

Halas got two in 10 minutes via Kate Drew and Liz McAleeman - who saw the keeper off her line and chipped from 30 yards.

The visitors pulled one back before half-time but after the break Halas scored via Drew and Kate Duffy after Gemma Stokes'.

**Halas Hawks**

work. Player of the match was keeper Olivia Woollams.

**Boys League**

**Halas Hawks U9 North 2**

**Bilbrook East U9 4**

An even first half saw an early goal from Bilbrook, Halas keeper Ryan Wood making good saves and Halas equalising shortly after.

A long ball by Ben Pedley was seized upon by man of the match Callum Deeming to score.

After half-time Bilbrook created two goals, but Halas got a second

from Deeming. A late strike confirmed the win.

**AFC Hinkford U9 1**

**Halas Hawks U9 East 0**

Halas Hawks East deserved more than defeat in a tight match.

Hinkford scored from a corner. Hales tried to equalise with James Knight, having the best chance from a free-kick. Man of the match was Ethan Daly for his workrate.

**Forest Falcons East U10 0**

**Halas Hawks U10 West 4**

Man of the match Harvey Brookes scored twice with Jai Chana and Brodie Crumpton also

scoring. Falcons keeper Luke Hall had an exceptional game.

**Halas Hawks U11 East 8**

**Halesowen Town Colts U11 0**

Goals came from Oliver Miller (3), Zac Karem, Josh Hogan, Harvey Jacobs, Charlie Greening and Hogan shared the man of the match award.

**West Hagley U15 7**

**Halas Hawks U15 2**

Halas led through Dominic Hikiss before Hagley hit back with three goals. Liam Holmes got one back, but Hagley scored four.

Gornal are going for Vase glory and cash

GORNAL manager Ian Rowe is targeting more FA Vase glory - and a welcome cash boost for the club after his side achieved history by marching into the last 32.

Athletic secured a home tie against Wisbech on Saturday, January 19 with last Saturday's 1-0 win over Town.

Prize money from the cup run has already topped £11,000 and another £1,800 is up for grabs if Gornal beat Wisbech.

Rowe believes the Midland Alliance side can achieve more knockout glory. "It's a fantastic opportunity for us - a home tie against a team from our own level," said Rowe, who works as a warehouse manager at a steelworks.

"Hopefully there are a couple more ties in it for us - and we're only four games from Wembley."

"It's fantastic for us as a club - it's further than we've ever been before, and we want to keep it going."

"Winning the West Midlands League was tough, but we've bettered that this season. And to win £11,000 in prize money is fantastic."

**Rangers top as Hughes hits hat-trick**

**Black Country Rangers 4  
Willenhall Town 1**

HIGH-FLYING Black Country Rangers halted Willenhall Town's winning run of five games in the West Midlands Premier.

Rangers' victory means they lead the division by four points, although second-placed Lye have two games in hand.

They won thanks to a Liam Hughes hat-trick and despite playing most of the game with 10 men.

The dangerous James McKenzie was brought down in the box by Rangers keeper Luke Tilts, who was sent off.

Craig Oldfield fired in from the spot.

McKenzie was denied a second penalty as he appeared to be fouled in the box.

Rangers regrouped in the second half and the game turned when Callum Haynes, who had handled Hughes well, limped off.

Hughes smashed in a hat-trick in 10 minutes. Rangers added a fourth from David Meese.



Mikel Arteta celebrates after scoring his first penalty. Santi Cazorla had plunged to the ground to con referee Mike Jones

penalty from which Mikel Arteta put the Gunners beyond their visitors' reach.

And, most critically and infuriatingly, there was the shocking dive from Santi Cazorla that brought Arteta's first-half spot-kick - and the woeful Jones' willingness to fall for it.

Hopefully, though, before the Hawthorns squad got down to their serious revelry to mark a superb campaign so far, they will have reflected on what they need to do to rediscover the form that brought them four successive wins and third place in the table.

There is no cause for alarm and certainly no need for recriminations in the Hawthorns dressing room.

Yet, since they pitched up in Swansea for what would turn out to be the start of a disappointing 11 days, there has been a marginal drop in standards; a subtle but significant loss of ferocity, that has left

Clarke's side unable to match the heights that propelled them to their finest top-flight start in a generation.

It was exploited on Saturday by an Arsenal side who displayed an impressive desire to put right the recent problems that had left manager Arsene Wenger in the spotlight.

While their attacking tempo was a little short of its sublime best and their finishing left plenty to be desired, there was a hunger to close down and pressurise Albion that was almost Barcelona-esque in its intensity.

From the opening moments the Gunners' midfield trio of Cazorla, Arteta and the magnificent Jack Wilshere were in the faces of the Baggies with James Morrison and Youssouf Mulumbu never given time to lift their heads and instigate Albion attacks.

Arteta converted for a second time from the spot. It was enough to leave the Baggies fuming. But not enough to mask their own below-par display.

Wenger's men had more than enough chances at other times to win the game comfortably while Albion rarely forced home keeper Wojciech Szczesny into action.

Gervinho and Cazorla had both gone close with Brunt bending a shot just wide at the other end before Cazorla twisted in the Albion box, saw Steven Reid's leg and threw himself to the ground despite no contact.

Jones fell for the deception and Arteta placed his spot-kick down the middle.

Wilshere put an excellent chance wide, the impressive Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain hit the crossbar and the hapless Gervinho missed two glorious chances before Oxlade-Chamberlain barged Popov to the ground and drew a foul in the box from Chris Brunt.

Arteta converted for a second time from the spot. It was enough to leave the Baggies fuming. But not enough to mask their own below-par display.

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# SPORT

Sports Desk 01902 319461

Club top charts in last gala of league

SWIMMERS from Halesowen Swimming Club topped the charts at Hucknall in the final round of the 2012 National League.

With the gala cut to four teams, a subdued atmosphere was countered by performances in the pool.

Halesowen got off to a flying start and it was clear early on that a win was on the cards. Their swimmers won exactly half of the events to run out winners over Calverton & Bingham, Long Eaton and a Leicester Penguins B side.

Double individual winners for Halesowen were India Hanke in backstroke and breaststroke and Mark Laing in butterfly and freestyle.

Other winners were Lilian Parsons and Jack Simpson in backstroke, Ben Meakin and Luke Morris in butterfly, Piers Boyack, James Cuthbert and Brian Steatham in breaststroke and Chloe Finch, Katy Morrice, Sophie Page and Jack Simpson in freestyle.

Relay teams were on form with many winning both medley and freestyle events.

These were the age 11 and under boys who included Euan Vaughan-Hawkins, the age 13 and under boys featuring Jakob Baker, the ladies' team including Eliza Bradley, Sian Carey, Ruby Fell and Becky Spoor and the men's team including Zach Collins, Joe Coxon and Jacob Darby.

The girls age 11 and under team, including Emma Bird and Kitty Luscombe, and the boys age 15 and under including James Benson and Max Rollason won the freestyle events.

Result: Halesowen 154pts, Calverton & Bingham 129, Long Eaton 120, Leicester Penguins B 96.

## County's call-ups shows strength

EIGHT members of Halesowen Swimming Club have been selected to represent Worcestershire in the inter-county junior invitation gala at Fenton Leisure Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, next year.

They are: Chloe Finch, Lauren Hill, Ruby Fell, India Hanke, James Benson, Mark Laing, Jakob Baker and James Cuthbert.

They will compete in 50m, 100m and 200m individual races and relays on Sunday, February 3.

Historically, Halesowen SC has had a large county representation and selections underline the strength and depth of club talent.

## Santi's gift

Albion pay penalty for Cazorla's dive  
**Page 35**



## Peacock party

Gornal now just four games from Wembley  
**Page 35**

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

## Emily's Olympic dream comes closer

### Cycling

EMILY NELSON'S Olympics dream is a step closer, and the cyclist is desperate to make the most of road and track chances in 2013.

The 16-year-old Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club member will join the Olympic Development Programme (ODP) – only for GB's most talented up-and-coming riders.

She joins four other girls in the British Cycling set-up and has been for a five-day training camp with a trip to Glasgow to come.

Nelson, of The Nether Stowe School, Lichfield, won bronze and

silver at the National Youth and Junior Track Championships in August but a points race crash injured her leg and kept her off the bike for the best part of two months.

"Before the injury I had hoped to medal in each of my races at the nationals so that was a bit of a disappointment for me," said the Lloyds Local Heroes scheme member.

"I came away with two medals but I was out of action for quite some time with calf and hamstring

injuries, just a bit of muscle damage because it was quite a bad fall."

"I've been back in training for the last three or four weeks and am trying to make up for lost time in getting my full fitness back."

"It was a real boost to find out that I was one of the five girls chosen to be on the ODP. Getting on the ODP is the first step to one day achieving my dream of competing at an Olympic Games."

"As a member of the ODP I now have a great chance to be selected for the World and European Road

Championships next year as well as the world track champs."

Younger sister Lucy debuted at the national championships, taking gold in the girls' Under-12 omnium.

"It was great to have her there and I liked being a bit of a coach for her, giving her advice and helping her out where I could," said Emily.

Lloyds TSB Local Heroes, in partnership with SportsAid, provides support and funding to 346 of Britain's most talented developing athletes on their journey to London 2012 and beyond. Since 2006, the programme has supported 1,000 athletes. Follow future stars at [facebook.com/lloydstsblocalheroes](http://facebook.com/lloydstsblocalheroes)



Emily Nelson – squad pick

Haseley the hero in Yeltz success

### Halesowen Town 1 Market Drayton 0

HALESOWEN dominated and kept a long-awaited clean sheet for their first Evo-Stik Division One South double of the season, but were restricted to Ben Haseley's solitary early strike.

The first opportunity fell to Market Drayton when Brendan Kelly's weak back-header left new home goalkeeper Dean Coleman in trouble. But Darryl Proffitt didn't live up to his name to take advantage as Nathaniel Caines cleared.

The Yeltz punished the visitors almost immediately with the ninth-minute winner when central defender Matt Cohen tripped under little pressure and let in Haseley to despatch his 21st goal of the season.

### String

Halesowen then turned up the heat to boss the rest of the first half, but were unable to turn a string of chances into further goals.

Tom Warmer set up Haseley, but his 14th-minute shot squirmed just wide with Mitchell Botfield unable to connect at the base of the post.

Further efforts from Naveed Arshad and captain Neil Barnfield were then cleared off the line and Haseley went close to increasing the lead once again when his 33rd-minute effort struck the outside of the post.

After the interval, Halesowen remained on top but created fewer chances and visiting substitute Martyn Davies squandered a golden opportunity when his weak shot was cleared.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, December 13, 2012.

# I'LL BE READY FOR FIGHT – WELBORN

**BRITISH title hopeful Jason Welborn has vowed to be ready for the biggest fight of his career on a televised bill in the new year.**

The Rowley Regis man will headline against much-vaunted British welterweight champion Frankie Gavin at Walsall Town Hall on January 18, live on BoxNation.

On the same bill, Walsall's Martin Gethin faces Ben Murphy for the vacant British lightweight title.

Both fights take place on promoter Frank Warren's first show of 2013, in association with Midlands promoter Errol Johnson.

The main event is a local derby of sorts for Welborn against Birmingham man Gavin Rees to defend against the 29-year-old.

But the Welshman elected to give the belt up instead.

Now two-time English champion Gethin is focusing on the Murphy showdown and, fighting in his home town, is determined to bring the titles to Walsall.

He said: "To have the biggest fight of my life in my hometown is a dream come true."

"As a Walsall lad, to be fighting at Walsall Town Hall for a British title, it just doesn't get any bigger than that."

"It will be a hard fight because he just doesn't stop coming forward, but that's how I like it."

"You don't win titles like he has without being decent, but nobody is invincible," he added.

"I'm not going there to make up the numbers. He's got what I want."

"The best man will win on the night and I will be doing all I can to make sure that is me."

Gethin could double up in chief support as the Commonwealth title is also up for grabs.

That would represent just

by Daniel Mole

desserts for the current IBF International champion.

The British Boxing Board of Control ordered previous British champion Gavin Rees to defend against the 29-year-old.

But the Welshman elected to give the belt up instead.

Now two-time English champion Gethin is focusing on the Murphy showdown and, fighting in his home town, is determined to bring the titles to Walsall.

He said: "To have the biggest fight of my life in my hometown is a dream come true."

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That would represent just

**Manager praises players as he picks up award**

STEVE CLARKE has become only the second Albion boss to be named Barclays manager of the month.

The Hawthorns head coach scooped the November Premier League award for steering the Baggies to four successive wins. It was the first time in the club's Premier League history that the Baggies had won four on the trot.

Clarke follows in the footsteps of Roberto Di Matteo, who bagged the honour as Albion chief in October 2010.

A 3-1 defeat at in-form Swanside was the only low point for Clarke in an otherwise sparkling November that saw Albion beat South 2-0, Wigan 2-1, Chelsea 2-1 and Sunderland 4-2 to go third.

It is another notch in his belt following his appointment as Roy Hodgson's successor in the summer – a decision viewed by some as a gamble. His previous experience had been restricted to a series of coaching roles at Chelsea, West Ham and Liverpool.

And Clarke paid tribute to staff and players who helped him to the award.

"I'm the one who picks the award up but it's obviously down to the work of my staff and players," he said. "The players were exceptional in November. We had a great run. This trophy is a little reward for them."



Steve Clarke with his manager of the month trophy at Albion's training ground

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